Physics 262-005

Autumn 2000

M W F 12:00 - 12:50 AM

Regener Hall 103

Prof. D. Wolfe

Office: Physics & Astronomy, Room 28

277 - 4827

Office Hours: M W F 1:00 - 2:00 PM in Room 109 of Regener Hall or by appointment


(or you may have the Complete Text which contains these parts)

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the last of three exciting semesters of physics. I look forward to working with those of you who were not in Physics 161 last semester and to getting to know you. Welcome back to those of you who were here last Spring. We shall begin with Chapter 32 (which is actually in Volume III) and work carefully through the rest of the book. We will stop after Chapter 35 and then do additional work on wave theory before we tackle interference and diffraction. Some of this material will be found at various places throughout the text and a little will supplement the text. Your input, in terms of questions and comments (as well as your work with problems and exams), will help determine our pace. To proceed at a pace more rapid than you can follow, merely to ensure that a certain amount of material is “covered”, seems to me to be foolish. My belief is that you will learn how to learn physics and therefore can cover extra material yourself. I have certain minimum expectations, of course, that MUST be met.

There is a section of an associated Problems Course, Physics 267 - 001. It is scheduled for Wednesday 2:00 - 2:50 PM and held in Room 114 of Regener Hall. This is a recitation and discussion class and is graded as Credit/No Credit courses. It is worth one credit hour. Grades are assigned on two criteria, a) you pass the lecture course and b) you have no more than 3 unexcused absences.

There will be 3 Exams, each of 1 class period duration. The first will be given on Wednesday 20 September, i.e. during the fifth week of class. The results will be available the following week so that you will be able to monitor your progress before the end of the 6 week drop period. The other exams will be Monday 16 October and Wednesday 15 November. There is a Compulsory and Cumulative Final Exam on Friday 15 December from 10:00 AM to noon in our regular Classroom. I repeat that the exam will be comprehensive. Because of the large number of students in this class and because of my desire to return the exams to you as rapidly as possible, all exams will be multiple choice. There will be an emphasis on conceptual questions.

Homework problems will be assigned on a daily basis. Almost all of the Homework for this class will be done via the WebAssign link with which many of you are familiar. I will explain it again in class. Any paper homework is to be turned in at the beginning of class the following meeting. Late Homework may be placed in my mailbox (located in the Physics & Astronomy building at the corner of Yale and Lomas and NOT Regener Hall - the people
in the Department office can show you the exact location) by 5 PM In all cases, the final semester grade is curved. Your score, under each of the five assumptions, is compared to the class average for that assumption. The highest score, relative to the class average, is the score you get. Because of the ability to “drop” one exam and because of the curving of grades, there will be NO make up examinations.

There is a Web page for this course which is accessible through any browser. The address is http://www.phys/~dwolfe [Use www.phys.unm.edu if you are off-campus]

On this page will be kept the HW assignments, solutions, notices, grades, etc. The HW solutions will be available in an .html, .ps (Postscript) and Acrobat (.pdf) versions. The Postscript versions require a Postscript printer (available in the Escape Pod) and make much nicer copies. The Acrobat version is also very nice and requires the use of Adobe Reader, available for free at www.adobe.com.

I will hold extra problem and HW sessions before every class session. These will be held, therefore, every Sunday at 12:30 PM, and every Tuesday and Thursday (unless otherwise specified) starting at 5:30 PM. The Sunday session will be held in Room 184 of the Physics and Astronomy Building, located on the NW corner of Yale and Lomas (lots of parking) BUT the Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be held in Room 114 of Regener Hall. This allows more contact hours for us to discuss physics. The “price of admission” is that I get to discuss a little extra physics. The incentive for you to attend is that I will discuss any of the HW problems due for the next class period (in reasonably complete detail). These are meant to be helpful and pleasant discussions in an informal atmosphere. These are modeled after the English tutorial sections in which you are asked questions (in groups) and discuss them among yourselves and then with me. There is no grade given.

Many of the exam problems will be taken from the tutorial material discussed in these sessions.

Good Luck. Please remember that progress and learning occurs for human beings by making mistakes and then learning from them. There is no other way. Do not be afraid to err.