PHYS 1111: Introduction to Physics I (Online)

Instructor
Dr. Kisa Ranasinghe (Hint: say “Rana-sing-ha”)
E-mail: kranasin@spsu.edu
Phone: (678) 915-3161
Office Location: Southern Polytechnic State University, H260h
On campus Office Hrs: MWF: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon and TR 1:00 to 2:00 pm (I encourage you to come and meet me)
Virtual Office Hours: Thursday 10.00pm to 11.00pm

For course inquires please use the D2L mail tool at the very top of the browser or the discussion forum. Any questions you have regarding the course materials during the week days will be answered within 24 hours during weekdays. The comments to your responses will be given with in 48 hours. Your assignments will be graded within one week. I am not available online on weekends or holidays.

If you need to communicate with me privately or on an urgent matter, please send me an email to ksranasin@spsu.edu and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Course Description
PHYS1111 is the first course in a two-semester sequence of introductory course that includes material from mechanics and thermal physics. Elementary algebra and trigonometry will be used. Students registering for PHYS 1111 must also register for PHYS1111L as a co-requisite

This course is designed to provide the best online learning experience possible for those who cannot come to the ground campus but has lot of time available. The content is presented in a variety of formats including textbook materials, online content, multimedia “tutorials”, Internet resources, quizzes and opportunities for interaction with other students and the instructor.

The course is designed for a 16-week semester, based on the text “Physics, Cutnell and Johnson, 9th Edition”. The course is divided into 10 modules. Each week starts at Eastern standard time 12.00AM on Monday and ends at 11:59PM on Sunday. All the assignments, quizzes, homework, and discussions are due at the end of the week.
Sunday 11:59 pm regardless of the availability. Materials may left for you to review after the due date.

**Discussion:**

There are two discussions per module and the students are expected participate the discussion actively and to post at least two comments on other’s answers on each discussion. Posting to the discussion forums at the last hour of the deadline does not give your classmates ample time to respond. Go back to discussion often and read others and make sure you answer if some one asked you a question, including your professor. If I asked a question and you did not answer points will be deducted. Please refrain from just posting your comments and never going back. **You will be graded on all these aspects of your participation.**

I will not respond to every comment, but I will be reading every comment. Discussion posts will be graded primarily for **quality**, **correctness**, and **timeliness**. You must follow netiquette and your post must be **constructive**. In a typical week you have two discussions. Use the following timelines for discussions.

**Discussion 1:** Post your response **by Thursday midnight.**

Start posting comments to your peer’s responses **at least by Friday.**

**Discussion 2:** This is your quiz discussion. Please complete your quiz and post your response **by Saturday midnight.** You need to give time for your peers to response to you.

Start posting comments to your peer’s responses **at least by Saturday.**

Extra discussion is set for questions and comments. Use that discussion to discuss the questions you have regarding the assignments, quiz, material or any other concerns (this is not a graded discussion).

You can ask questions or respond generally to the overall audience. Be honest, clear, and concise. Always use constructive language, even in criticism, to work toward the goal of positive progress. Comments like 'good job', 'nice answer, etc.... are **not considered as valid response. Discussion responses will be accepted 24 hrs after the due date for partial credits, 50% will be deducted for late**
posts. No posts will be accepted after the end of the week. When I reply to your answers, I will be asking questions which you are required to answer to obtain full points.

Assessment/Quiz: You will be given online quiz every week from the material covered. The quizzes would be available during the entire week. The quiz will be 60 minutes long. After the 60 minutes you will not have a chance to submit, therefore use your time appropriately. All quizzes must be completed at the end of Sunday 11:59 pm regardless of the availability.

Homework Assignments: All homework assignments will be via web-assign. All homework will be scheduled on web-assign and all work must be submitted at the end of Sunday 11:59pm regardless of the availability. Please do not submit any work via email.

Final Exams: A comprehensive 2 hr multiple choice Final Exam will be on 12/03/2014 and the time constraints for the Final Exam will be strictly enforced. Final Exam will count for 25% towards your total grade.

Course Learning Outcomes

(1) Students will be able to solve problems in introductory-level electromagnetic fields accurately
(2) Students will be able to accurately compare and contrast simple dc and ac circuits
(3) Students will be able to discuss the characteristics of electromagnetic waves at the elementary level
(4) Students will be able to solve problems in geometric optics accurately.
(5) Students will be able to solve problems in physical optics at the elementary level accurately.

Required Textbook/Supporting Materials

Textbook: Physics, Cutnell & Johnson Volume I; 9th Ed. (you may use the online textbook)

Web-assigned Self Enrollment
In order to get access to web-assign go to https://www.webassign.net/login.html. You must use the class key listed below to enroll in your class.
spsu 6151 5154
(There are two versions, just homework or homework with online text book; if you are using the later you do not have to buy the text book)
Computer with Internet access. Working mic and head set.

Podcast:
All your lectures and narratives will be available via podcasting. In order to access go to the Podcast in Start Here Module and click on the channel to get RSS feed.

Technical Requirements
You will need a computer, faster internet connection, a media software such as Quick Time, headphone, and microphone.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Rubric for Discussion: 20 points will be given to correct, clear logical answer, 8 points for answering the professor on her questions and comments and another 12 points for participating on 2 peer postings constructively (6 points for each response).</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Conversion: A: (90-100), B: (80-89), C: (70-79), D: (60-69), F: (0-59)

Examples:
The first response is clear, logical, and conceptually correct. Therefore will get full 20 points. The second response is insufficient and will not be considered as a good participation. Therefore will received only 2 points.

**Discussion responses will be accepted 24 hrs after the due date for partial credits, 50% will be deducted for late posts.**

**Course Outline**

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each unit of the course. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Standard Time and in the GeorgiaVIEW D2L Calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Start Here Module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Module 1: What is physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Module 2: Kinematics 1D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/01</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Module 3: Kinematics 2D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/08</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Module 4: Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Module 5: Circular Motion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Course Expectations

**Expectations/Class Participation:** You are going to learn Physics online. I need to explain you that this is not going to be a walk in the park. Each week you have considerable amount of materials to read and understand, discussion to participate, assignments to submit and a quiz to take. In order to be successful you need to do more than the assigned work. You are expected to complete all homework assignments with in the given due dates.

For this online class, you should expect to spend 4-5 hours everyday on coursework. Logging in at least five times a week is minimally necessary to be productive and to interact with your peers. My role will be one of a facilitator for this interaction, so I will not be responding to every comment. However, I will be looking in frequently during the week monitoring your progress. Discussion posts will be graded primarily for **quality, correctness, and timeliness.**

It is required to post at least two comments on your peers. Comments like “good job”, “nice answer”, “I like your answer”, “you made a good comment” etc.... are not considered as valid comments. Every comment must bring an input to the discussion that is constructive and productive, that should carry further. Say why you like it, why is it a good comments, what think what can you add to it. Try not to do minimum, as participation in your discussion is the main way to learn and earn good grades. Posting to the discussion forums at the last hour of the deadline does not give your classmates ample time to respond. Do not repeat the same comment to every one, if you do so, both comments will be treated as one.
The more effort exerted by all to complete readings, meet the due dates and participate in the online discussions, the more meaningful and dynamic the learning experience for all.

**Communication Rules**
In any classroom setting there are communication rules in place that encourage students to respect others and their opinions. In an online environment the do's and don'ts of online communication are referred to as **Netiquette**. As a student in my course you should:
- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- **Avoid typing in all capitals** because it is difficult to read and is considered the electronic version of 'shouting'.
- Don’t flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don’t use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don’t use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional, humor is difficult to convey in an online environment.
- Always assume good intent and respond accordingly. If you are unsure of or annoyed by a message, wait 24 hours before responding.

**Late Assignments**
Late discussion and assignments will be accepted after the due date with a penalty of 50% deduction. Late submissions will end Sunday 11:59pm.

**Student Responsibility**
Distance learning requires more individual discipline than traditional classes, and requires that you have at least some control over your time and schedule. It is not easier or less time than face-to-face courses. During each week, students are expected to:
- Check D2L course website regularly;
- Follow the weekly study guide;
- Study the assigned material, such as; virtual lectures, textbook chapters, PPT slides, etc.;
- Complete and submit assigned quizzes or homework on time.
There will be no reminders. It is not easier or less time than face-to-face courses. It in fact will be much harder and required twice or three times spent time as a conventional student to learn physics by yourself. Remember my role would be a facilitator not a lecturer. Always follow rules of netiquette as indicated in the “Start Here” module.

Important Dates:
Drop/add: 8/18/2014
Engagement reports due: 9/1/14
Withdrawal day: 10/2/2014
Last day of class: 12/1/2014

Tips for Effective Online Learning
For an online class, students can really enjoy the benefits of learning at your own pace and in whatever environment that you choose. Below are some tips for effective online learning:

• **Check the GaVIEW D2L course website regularly.** Always be aware of the current status of the course. It might be helpful to subscribe to the RSS feeds within the News Tool, sign up for text message alerts, or subscribe to your posts within the Discussion Tool. By taking advantage of the tools within the environment and the posted learning material, you can maintain an enhanced learning experience.

• **Work closely with your instructor.** If you have any questions, please contact me immediately. The best way to contact me if via email or text, and you will be guaranteed to have a reply within 12 hours.

• **Begin your work early.** If you can start a task early, don’t start late. Assuming you spend the same amount of time completing the task, starting later will be much more stressful than starting early. Never wait until the last minute to begin an assignment! You’ll have no turnaround time if you need help or something happens.

What is Plagiarism?
Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own. If you are unaware or uncertain on how to properly cite a particular source, please do not neglect to add the citation—that is considered plagiarism.

If you have questions on how to cite your work, please contact me immediately! For more information, please refer to the “Plagiarism Policy” under the Policies section of this syllabus.
Turnitin
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Help Resources

Contacts to get Help
For D2L Technical Support, go to https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/ or call 678-915-HELP
For D2L Student Support, go to http://spsu.edu/d2l/student/
For Wimba Technical Support, go to http://www.wimba.com/services/support/
For Emergencies call...

Additional Resources
See course resources module
Remote access to Library Resources
http://www.spsu.edu/library/DL/dl.html
Business Department Resources
http://www.spsu.edu/business/webx/rc.htm
The USG Copyright Policy can be found at http://www.usg.edu/copyright/

University Policies

Academic Honesty
“A faculty member reserves the right to remove any student from his or her course if the student’s behavior is of a disruptive nature or if there is evidence of academic dishonesty.” (SPSU Catalog)

Plagiarism Policy
Committing plagiarism is considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be taken very seriously. Any instances where academic dishonesty is suspected will result in an automatic grade of a zero for all students involved. Further disciplinary action may be taken such as suspension or expulsion from the University.

Disability Statement
“A student at Southern Polytechnic State University who has a disabling condition and needs academic accommodations has a responsibility to voluntarily identify him/herself as having a disability by scheduling an appointment with the Disability Services Coordinator as soon as possible.” (SPSU Catalog). The coordinator can be contacted at 678-915-7244