Physics 343: Modern Physics Autumn 2015

Course Information

- Instructor: Dr. David A. Macaluso
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- Email: david.macaluso@umontana.edu
- Lectures: MWF 2:10 – 3:00 PM, CHCB 230/231
- Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3-5, Tuesday & Thursday 10-11. I am happy to help students and answer questions outside my normally scheduled office hours and I strongly encourage students to seek my assistance whenever necessary.

Overview

Modern Physics is a general term used to describe several disciplines of physics developed in the early 20th century. This was a revolutionary time in physics when radical new ideas were being proposed to address the inability of Classical Physics to explain certain observable phenomena (thus Modern Physics is firmly *empirical*). Of the numerous fields and subfields that comprise Modern Physics today, most can be traced to two fundamental concepts: Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. In this class we will explore Modern Physics from its inception with these two monumental theories to its applications in Particle, Nuclear, Atomic, Molecular, Solid-State, and Statistical Physics, and if time permits, Cosmology.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students should have:

1. A qualitative and quantitative understanding of Relativity and Quantum Mechanics and their associated and complimentary fields, such as atomic, molecular, nuclear, particle, and solid state physics (for example).
2. Improved problem solving and study skills in preparation for advanced physics coursework.
3. A fundamental background in quantum mechanics in preparation for Quantum Mechanics I and II.

Textbook

Modern Physics, 3rd Edition, By Krane
ISBN-13: 978-1118061145
ISBN-10: 1118061144

Learning Objectives

The goals of this course are:

- Introduce students to Relativity and Quantum Mechanics and their associated and complimentary fields and explore specific topics within these fields in detail: e.g. the Schrödinger equation, particle/wave duality, the uncertainty principle, *etc*.
- Improve problem solving and study skills in preparation for advanced physics coursework.
- Specifically prepare students for Quantum Mechanics I and II.

Add/Drop/Withdraw

Please refer to the University policy on adding, dropping, and withdrawing from the course at http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php.

From the 16th through the 45th instructional day, all classes must be dropped using Drop forms (instructor signature required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **$10 fee applies.**

From the 46th to the last instructional day prior to finals week, classes must be dropped using the Drop form (instructor and Dean signatures required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **$10 fee applies.**

Websites

Grades and other materials will be posted on Moodle.

Course Expectations

This is an upper division course intended for physics majors. The expectations are therefore appropriate for advanced undergraduate students who are familiar with the concepts of personal responsibility, accountability, and academic honesty. For example:

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: I expect all students to have completed the prerequisite courses; one year of calculus-based College Physics (PHSX 215 and PHSX 217 or equivalent), and Calculus II (Mathematics 172 or equivalent). It is also expected that students will be concurrently enrolled in the co-requisite course (Mathematics 273 - Multivariable Calculus).

Attendance: Exams will be based at least partially on lectures, in-class discussions, and in-class assignments. In addition, quizzes represent a significant percentage of the course grade. Thus regular attendance, while not compulsory, is vital to student success.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read the assigned material before class. Intermittent quizzes will be given usually at the beginning of class that will be based at least partially on the reading. These quizzes will not be demanding, so reading ahead will both prepare you for the upcoming lecture and help assure you earn the "low hanging fruit" of reading quizzes.

Original Work: I strongly encourage students to work together, and to seek assistance from me whenever necessary. However, written work submitted in this class must be the original work of the student. The Student Conduct Code at the University of Montana embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community. This Code describes expected standards of behavior for all students, including academic conduct and general conduct, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations. See the full code at:

http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Please do not use electronics in class, including phones and laptops.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on the traditional letter grade percentage scale. Grade breakdown:

Midterm Exams (three at 10% each)	**30%**
Cumulative Final Exam	**30%**
Homework	**20%**
Quizzes	**20%**

Midterm exams will take place in the regular classroom during normal class time. Exams are 50 minutes and will likely take every second of those 50 minutes to complete, so *be prepared*. If you are unable to attend an exam, arrangements must be made *beforehand* so that you can take the exam *early.* **Missed exams will be scored as a zero**.

Homework will be due at the beginning of class. **Late assignments will be accepted with a maximum grade of 50% (except where prior arrangements have been made with me).**

Academic Honesty

I encourage students to work together and to seek assistance from me whenever necessary. However, work submitted in this class must be the original work of the student. In addition, the majority of your grade will be based on quizzes and exams that test your mastery of the homework problems, so doing the problems on your own will give you the best chance to succeed.

University policy statement on academic honesty: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code: (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

Students with Disabilities:

Whenever possible, and in accordance with civil rights laws, The University of Montana will attempt to provide reasonable modifications to students with disabilities who request and require them. Please feel free to setup a time with me to discuss any modifications that may be necessary for this course. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at http://life.umt.edu/dss/.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will take place in the normal classroom from 3:20 – 5:20 PM, Thursday December 17th. NOTE: the final exam for Waves & Oscillations is from 10:10 – 12:10 PM, Thursday December 17th. Plan accordingly!

Tentative Course Schedule (dates, topics and readings subject to change)

Aug.	Day	Topics	Reading Assignment
8/31	M	Syllabus, Course Introduction, Chapter 1	
	W	Special Relativity	Preface, Ch. 1 (all), 2.1-2.3
	F	Special Relativity	2.4

Sept.	Day	Topics	Reading
9/7	M	*Labor Day – no class*	
	W	Special Relativity	2.5-2.9 & Summary
	F	Particle/Wave Duality	3.1-3.2
9/14	M	Particle/Wave Duality	3.3-3. 6 & Summary
	W	Particle/Wave Duality	4.1-4.2
	F	Particle/Wave Duality	4.3-4.4
9/21	M	Particle/Wave Duality	4.5-4.7 & Summary
	W	Particle/Wave Duality & Exam Review	Pre-Exam Review Session
	F	**EXAM I**, Chapters 1-4	
9/28	M	Return Exam, start The Schrödinger Equation	5.3-5.3
	W	The Schrödinger Equation	5.4
	F	The Schrödinger Equation	5.5

Oct.	Day	Topics	Reading
10/5	M	The Schrödinger Equation	5.6 & Summary
	W	The Schrödinger Equation Problem Solving Day	
	F	The Rutherford-Bohr Model of the Atom	6.1-6.3
10/12	M	The Rutherford-Bohr Model of the Atom	6.4-6.5
	W	The Rutherford-Bohr Model of the Atom	6.6-6.8 & Summary
	F	The Hydrogen Atom In Wave Mechanics	7.1-7.3
10/19	M	The Hydrogen Atom In Wave Mechanics	7.4-6
	W	The Hydrogen Atom In Wave Mechanics	7.7-7.9 & Summary
	F	Many-Electron Atoms	8.1-8.3
10/26	M	Many-Electron Atoms	8.4-8.6
	W	Many-Electron Atoms	8.7 & Summary
	F	**EXAM II**, Chapters 5-8	

Nov.	Day	Topics	Reading
11/2	M	Return Exam, start Molecules	9.1-9.3
	W	Molecules	9.4-9.6 & Summary
	F	Statistical Physics	10.1-10.3
11/9	M	Statistical Physics	10.4-10.7 & Summary
	W	*Veterans Day – no class*	
	F	Solid-State Physics	11.1-11.5
11/16	M	Solid-State Physics	11.6-11.8 & Summery
	W	Nuclear Physics	12.1-12.3
	F	Nuclear Physics	12.4-12.6
11/23	M	Nuclear Physics	12.7-12.10 & Summary

	W	*Student Travel Day – no class*	
	F	*Thanksgiving Break – no class*	
11/30	M	Nuclear Reactions	Ch. 13 (all)
	W	Particle Physics	14.1-14.4
	F	Particle Physics	14.5-14.8 & Summary

Dec.	Day	Topics	Reading
12/7	M	Cosmology	Ch 15 (all)
	W	**EXAM III**, Chapters 9-15	
	F	Return Exam, Final Exam Review	Ch. 1-15
12/17	**Tr**	**Cumulative Final Exam 3:20 PM – 5:20 PM**	***Everything, again***