

Attendance

Attendance at lectures, discussion sections, and lab sections is expected of all students. Course instructors will do their best to make each hour an interesting, enjoyable, and productive use of your time. However, attendance will not be tracked in any formal way and is no part of your course grade. Likewise, participation in the in-lecture polling questions is expected and encouraged, but not tracked nor used as part of your course grade.

A missed lab or discussion section can be made up at a different time, but only if you request permission from the instructor in charge in advance. The instructor will allow the make up request, if there is available space. Please use make up privileges sparingly; they are extended for unavoidable circumstances—not for personal convenience.

Late/Missing work

An occasional missed assignment will not impact a student's course grade. There are a multitude of good reasons to forego submitting an assignment. The reasons include a busy week in other courses, an interview crucial to your future, illness, a special family event, emotional support extended to a friend in need, computer crash, etc. To account for all these (and other) eventualities, roughly 75% of course assignments are used to calculate course grades. Therefore, the general course policy is that missing or late work cannot be made up. Any requests for an exception to this policy must be made directly to the course head, Glenn Case.

Please do not fall into the mind-set that says, "I get to drop 3 of the 13 assignments." The expectation is that each student will do all course work. The course policies are intended to ease the difficulties that occasional unexpected events may impose upon a student's timely completion of course work.

Quizzes

Written quizzes will be given most weeks at the beginning of discussion sections that meet on Tuesday and Wednesday. 10 quizzes are scheduled for the semester. Each student's best 7 scores contribute to that student's course grade.

Quiz content will be drawn from the Assignment and Coops that were due the Friday of the preceding week.

There is a 10 minute time limit for answering the quiz question(s).

Each student may prepare and bring a single 8.5"x11" sheet of paper with annotations of any sort on both sides. Instructors will not provide sheets.

Equations, text, pictures, etc. are permitted on the sheet.

You may consult with any one and any thing while preparing the sheet.

It's okay to use a sheet identical to a classmate's sheet.

Sheets posted to Canvas (in the "study materials and resources" module) may be modified or printed and used "as is."

Quizzes will be scored on a 10 point scale.

Exams

Exams are closed book, closed notes; however, each student may prepare and bring a sheet containing whatever information they choose. In aggregate, exam scores comprise the bulk (58%) of your course grade.

There are two scheduled prelims: Thursday, February 23 and Thursday, March 30. Although the registrar lists evening prelim times, this semester's prelims will be held during the regular lecture hours: 9:05-9:55

and 11:20-12:10. Different, but essentially equivalent, exam questions will be used for the two lecture times. Attend whichever sitting you prefer. If a student takes both exams, that student's lower score will be counted.

The final exam will be scheduled for a two and a half hour period during the finals' days, May 13 through 20.

It is my practice to recognize excellence whenever it is achieved, so a somewhat novel algorithm is used for each student's exam component of the course grade. Of the exam component, prelim 1 is weighted 20%, prelim 2 is weighted 20%, and the final is weighted 60%. However, any student's prelim score lower than that student's final exam score will be replaced by the final exam score. Once this scheme is comprehended, you will (correctly) conclude that prelims are in some sense optional. Think of prelims as practice and preparation rather than as mini-finals. Poor performance on a prelim or a missed prelim may not have any impact on your course grade. A solid final exam score--indicating solid understanding of all course material--will be acknowledged by a solid course grade. The final exam content will be cumulative, with all weeks of the course covered more or less equally.

Academic Integrity

Courage, respect, and honesty are demanded of all PHYS 2214 students. Any student who is discovered to willfully and consciously disregard those three moral qualities will not be permitted to continue in the course. Courage is required to allow others to see what you have accomplished—even if you are not proud of it, know you have greater potential, or are sure your current understanding is poor. Respect of the environment you have part in creating for others, and non-judgmental encouragement of individuals struggling more or less than yourself is necessary for the continued existence of any community. Honesty means that any work you claim credit for (submit for course credit) is your own.

Collaboration with others in PHYS 2214 is encouraged when working on discussion section coop questions, thinking through approaches to weekly homework assignments, understanding laboratory questions and analyses, preparing for weekly quizzes and exams, and discussing generally course content and concepts.

Collaboration with others in PHYS 2214 is forbidden when completing pre-lecture reading quizzes, answering weekly quiz questions, and answering exam questions.

Grades

Grades: Course grades will be determined based upon the following items.

16% based upon each student's best 16 (out of 22) pre-lecture reading quizzes

0% based upon each student's 22 coop check answer quizzes

10% based upon each student's best 10 (out of 13) weekly assignment scores

7% based upon each student's best 7 (out of 10) weekly quizzes

9% based upon each student's 9 lab completions (no provision for missed labs)

58% based upon each student's exam scores

PHYS 2214 is not “curved.” A grade curve implies that the fraction of students earning a certain letter grade is fixed prior to the semester. Your instructor feels that a curve is unjust, therefore one will not be used. If few students demonstrate “excellent” proficiency, few ‘A’ grades will be awarded. If many students demonstrate “excellent” proficiency, many ‘A’ grades will be awarded.