

# Phys121H      Introductory Physics Fall 2016 (preliminary syllabus)

Dr. T. L. Worchesky

Physics Room 217    Telephone: X56779    Email: [Dr.Worchesky@umbc.edu](mailto:Dr.Worchesky@umbc.edu)

Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Thur 2:00-3:00

**Class Meeting:**      Lecture:          MWF 9:00 – 9:50    Physics Room 201  
                         Discussion:      Wed 10:00 – 11:50 UC Room 115D (CASTLE)

**Office Hours:**      I will be available in my office on Tuesday 2-3, Thursday at 9-10, and Friday at 2-3. You may also make an appointment to meet at another time by contacting me through email. Please come prepared to discuss your question or issue. You may come to the office either individually or in groups. I would like each of you to stop by to see me and introduce yourself to me sometime during the first two weeks of the class.

**Course Overview:**    This course is the four-credit, calculus-based, introductory physics course. In general, this is the intro physics course physical science and engineering majors, not for life-sciences. This semester the Honors section of the course will be a stand-alone course not part of the large-lecture course. We will cover the same material in a bit more depth. The list of general topics covered in this class include: motion and forces, linear and angular momentum, energy and work, and harmonic motion. The goals of this course are (1) that you can demonstrate an understanding of the topics listed above, (2) that you are able to analyze, interpret, and model physical situations using the principles found in the above topics, and (3) that you can communicate your reasoning processes clearly through logical, coherent homework and exam solutions. I expect you to be able to work with these ideas and apply them to various physical situations by the end of the session. We will cover the mechanics and applications sections of the textbook (Chapters 1-16) in this course. There is a preliminary schedule at the end of this document. There will be 3 in-class exams and a final exam. The dates of the exams are on the schedule.

The discussion class for this course is a required part of the course. The discussion classes will address particular difficult concepts and will focus on the practical matters of analyzing problems.

There are pre-lecture animated PowerPoint documents that you need to examine before coming to the lecture. These pre-lecture assignments have a short set of questions that need to be answered and these are part of your final grade.

**Pre-requisites:**      MATH151 is a co-requisite. Basic college algebra is used extensively in this course, and the use of calculus will be phased into the course on pace with the MATH151 class.

**Textbook and Materials:**    *Physics for Scientist and Engineers*, Tipler & Mosca (required)  
                         *FlipItPhysics* (electronic pre-lectures and homework) (required)  
                         Automated Response Clicker, Turning Technologies RFC-03 (required)  
                         (No calculators, tablets, computers, or cell phones during exams)  
                         The textbook and the *FlipItPhysics* access are bundled as part of the Course Material Initiative (CMI). You have been enrolled in the CMI automatically and can choose to opt out. The CMI is described at the Bookstore website, at: <http://bookstore.umbc.edu/SiteText.aspx?id=29842>

**FlipItPhysics:**

We will use an on-line system called *FlipItPhysics*. This system has many features and it includes pre-lecture material, pre-lecture questions, and electronic homework. To access *FlipItPhysics*, follow the link that in the Course Materials folder in the Blackboard website. Follow the directions to enroll as a student. You may need the course access key for this course: **P121HF16**. **The course is not accessible yet while I complete its layout, I will send an email to let you know that I have made it accessible.** You need to enter an individual identifier, use your student ID number: the two-letter, five-digit on your student id card. Please be careful, as you cannot change this once you have registered in *FlipItPhysics*. Also, please do not enter practice names and ids into the system as that will clog up the system.

**Clickers:**

We will use the Turning Technology clickers during the lectures. You need to purchase a clicker and the software system access through the Bookstore. Once you have your clicker and have created your Turning Technologies account you must register in Blackboard for you to receive credit for answering questions in the lecture. There are files to help you register your clicker and prepare it for class located on the course Blackboard site under Course Materials and then Clickers. Please have a clicker with you at the first lecture that you have registered and that is ready. There will be graded questions at the second lecture.

**Grading:**

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 3 one-hour in-class exams          | 45% |
| Final exam                         | 25% |
| Paper-based homework               | 10% |
| Electronic homework problems       | 6%  |
| Discussion class                   | 5%  |
| Pre-lecture material and questions | 5%  |
| Clicker response questions         | 4%  |

A: 90-100    B: 80-90    C: 70-80    D: 60-70    F: 0-60

I do not grade on a curve, I do not drop any assigned work or exams, nor do I have any extra-credit material. There is one unexcused clicker absence or clicker malfunction for the semester.

**Exams:**

There are three exams during the semester and a comprehensive final exam. The semester exams are 90 minutes long and begin at 8 am in Physics Room 201 (the same room as the lectures). I will have the semester exam dates on the schedule that will be posted on the Blackboard site. The final exam is 2 hours long, and is at the time and date assigned by the Registrar: Friday, December 16 at 8 am.

**Pre-Lectures:**

These are very well done, animated PowerPoint presentations with voice-over. It is important that you go through these pre-lectures when they are assigned, including answering the embedded questions. These and reading the textbook sections prepare you for the lecture. There are a set of questions that are separate from the pre-lectures and these are known as the pre-flight questions. They ensure you think through the material you have viewed and give me a chance to see the class' general understanding of the pre-lecture concepts.

**Lectures:** You are required to read the textbook material before coming to class. By this I do not mean that you should skim the material. You should read it, think about it, and formulate questions about the material. Cell phone, tablet, and laptop use during the lectures is prohibited. I expect class participation during the lecture. I hope you will quickly recognize the difference between a real question to the class and a rhetorical question, and respond accordingly. There will be clicker questions in many of the classes on the reading material and material we have already discussed, and questions meant to stimulate an active learning environment. Thus, you need to register your clicker in the Blackboard system to receive credit. Registering your clicker is explained in a document on the Blackboard site in the Course Materials section.

**Discussion Classes:** The discussion classes are a required part of the course, and you must attend the discussion class in which you are registered. There are no exceptions to this rule and you will not receive credit for your work if you are not attending the correct class. This work will be done in small groups (3 students), and so it is critical that you are not late for this class.

**Homework:** This is one of the most important aspects of this class for learning the material. Although you will learn a lot from my enlightening lectures and from studying the textbook, the only way to understand this material to the level that is expected is by personally working through the important material and applying it to various situations (problems). The homework will be challenging at times. Remember that it is the only time I can ensure that you examine a complicated problem. There is not enough time for this on exams.

Much of the homework is submitted electronically through the *FlipItPhysics* website. Thus, you need to make sure that you have good access to the internet via a computer. This is available in the library and in the computer labs across campus, as well as your own home internet access. Most of the electronic homework problems are broken into multiple sections. You have three chances at supplying the correct answer in each part and you will not lose credit for the first attempt. It is good practice to write out the solution to each of the electronic homework problems on paper before submitting the answer, and then keeping the written solution to use in studying for exams.

Note that there will be electronic homework that is due approximately three times a week, just before the lecture. You are responsible for checking the *FlipItPhysics* site regularly to ensure you do not miss any of the assignments.

There is written homework that is due each Friday. These assignments will be posted on the Blackboard site under Written Homework Assignments. Write neatly, staple the pages together, begin each problem on a new page, and make sure that your name is on each page. If it is illegible or does not have a logical flow that can be followed, it will not be accepted. The written homework will be collected just prior to the lecture on the day that it is due. There is no provision for late homework.

I imagine that you will get together on a regular basis in small groups. This is a good tool if used properly and a disaster if used incorrectly. Once you have done your own studying and worked out the problems, it is good to discuss the ideas with others. Please do not use it without working on the problems on your own. If you receive help on the written homework, please reference this in the margin of the work. Each person must submit the written homework in their own hand, and it must be their work.

**Tutoring Help:** The Learning Resource Center has free tutors for this and many other 100- and 200-level courses. They are located on the third floor of Sherman Hall and more information is available at: <http://www.umbc.edu/lrc/>. There is a Supplemental Instruction leader for the PHYS121 large-lecture course. She will make announcements on Blackboard to tell you where and when she will have meetings. These have been extremely useful for students in the past semesters. These meetings will have problems that you work through with the assistance of the SI leader.

**Other Policies:** Do not forget to bring your clicker to every lecture class. You have one unexcused clicker absence or malfunction for the semester. There are no discussion class make-ups.  
If you will miss an exam due to a University-policy accepted absence, you must inform me of this at least two weeks before the exam.  
If you are taking exams with Student Disability Services, I must be informed by them in the first two weeks of the semester. Also, you must remind me of this via email 48 hours before every exam.

**Academic Integrity:** I feel obligated to ensure that students know the repercussions of cheating. If you are found cheating, you will receive a zero for that work, and you will be reported to the Academic Conduct Committee. The University has a website that addresses the concepts of academic integrity: [http://www.umbc.edu/undergrad\\_ed/ai/](http://www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/ai/) Here is a statement from the Provost's Office:

#### **UMBC Statement of Values for Academic Integrity**

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult [UMBC policies](#).

**Final Comments:** I am always excited to teach this class. I have high expectations for all of us in this class. You will need to work hard to do well in this course, and I expect that you will work 8-12 hours outside of class per week on this course. This includes preparing for lecture, reviewing material, doing the assigned homework, and studying for exams. This course is not about memorization, but understanding and application of knowledge. Remember that getting help when you are having difficulty is part of life, but that exams are not a team sport. You must know the material. I promise you that I will be working just as hard as you to present the material and help you to understand it. Please, do not leave three days go by where you are in the dark about some concept or some method of approaching problems. See me for help.