

**PHYS 121**  
**Introductory Physics I**  
**Dr. Eric C. Anderson**  
**UMBC•Fall•2021**  
**Syllabus**

---

**•Getting ready•**

**Prerequisites•**You must have completed Math 151, or be enrolled in it this semester.

**Workload•**Experience shows that success requires 8-12 hours per week of intensive effort outside of scheduled class time, consistent with the usual higher education expectation of 2-3 hours outside of class for each credit hour.

**Course Materials•**

*FliptPhysics* by Gary Gladding et al is the main resource for Phys 121 and 122. To enroll click *Course Materials Initiative (CMI): Flipt Physics, supplemental source, and Turning Technologies subscription* on the left toolbar in Blackboard. Choose *Click here to register for Flipt Physics*. Choose *Get access to Flipt Physics (Student)*. You'll be prompted to enter your email address, then you'll be asked to enter a **Course code (AndersonFA2021)**, and your own personal access code that you received from [no-reply@verbasoftware.com](mailto:no-reply@verbasoftware.com).

Supplemental source: *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* by Tipler. To access click *Course Materials Initiative (CMI): Flipt Physics, supplemental source, and Turning Technologies subscription* and select *Read Now*. Both the principal source (*Flipt Physics*) and the supplemental source (Tipler) are provided through UMBC's Course Materials Initiative (CMI). For more information on CMI contact the UMBC Bookstore.

Turning Technologies subscription for responding to questions during class using your smartphone or tablet/ipad. To subscribe click *Course Materials Initiative (CMI): Flipt Physics, supplemental source, and Turning Technologies subscription* and choose a subscription term. (If you plan to take Phys 122 at UMBC, I recommend one year or longer.)

**Other required items•**Computer with reliable internet access. Smartphone or tablet/ipad (bring to each class) for responding to questions in class through Turning Technologies. Many students find a tablet or ipad with note-taking software like *Notability* useful for taking notes in class and working on homework. Microphone and webcam very helpful for online help sessions. Chrome browser advised for best Blackboard performance.

**Special COVID-19 policies•**Mask required at all times in class, discussion, and Physics Tutorial Center. Consequently no eating or drinking during sessions in those spaces. 1-meter social distancing (arm's length). In case you forget, masks may be available at the check-in desk at the RAC, the Library circulation desk, and the campus information desk in Commons. Although this is expected to remain a fully in-person offering for the duration, please be prepared for a possible shift to remote instruction, if directed by UMBC.

**Class•**

Section 01 MWF 9-9:50 AM in UC 301 (take any seat), or  
section 10 MWF 11-11:50 AM in Eng 027 (alternate seats).

**Discussion•**Check your schedule for your weekly discussion meeting (beginning week of 31 Aug). Here are your graduate teaching assistants (TAs) and undergraduate learning assistants (LAs) who will lead your meetings:

---

Section	Location	Day and time	TA	LA
02/06	Interdisciplinary Life S 230	W 5:00-6:50 PM	Nirandi J.	Kaitie
03	Interdisciplinary Life S 230	Th 8:00-9:50 AM	Nirandi J.	Esther
04	Physics 226	Th 11:30-1:20 PM	Akram I.	Laylor (until 12:50)
05	Interdisciplinary Life S 230	Th 2:30-4:20 PM	Lizbeth T.	Avion
07	Interdisciplinary Life S 402	W 1:00-2:50 PM	Lizbeth T.	Brian
08	Interdisciplinary Life S 101	Th 8:00-9:50 AM	Akram I.	Laylor
09	Interdisciplinary Life S 101	Th 5:00-6:50 PM	Nirandi J.	
11	Fine Arts 006	W 1:00-2:50 PM	Max A.	Matthew (until 2:20)
12	Interdisciplinary Life S 402	Th 11:30-1:20 PM	Max A.	Kaitie (until 12:50)
13	Interdisciplinary Life S 237	Th 2:30-4:20 PM	Bhavesh V.	Avion
14	Math&Psych 104	Th 5:00-6:50 PM	Max A.	Matthew
15	Interdisciplinary Life S 201	W 7:00-8:50 PM	Bhavesh V.	Precious

#### Contact info●

TAs: Max A. ([maifer1@umbc.edu](mailto:maifer1@umbc.edu)), Akram I. ([akrami1@umbc.edu](mailto:akrami1@umbc.edu)), Lizbeth T. ([ltan1@umbc.edu](mailto:ltan1@umbc.edu)),  
Bhavesh V. ([bvalech1@umbc.edu](mailto:bvalech1@umbc.edu)), Nirandi J. ([nirandij1@umbc.edu](mailto:nirandij1@umbc.edu))

Instructor: Eric Anderson ([andersoe@umbc.edu](mailto:andersoe@umbc.edu))

#### ●Learning goals●

**General education program (GEP) goals:** *This course addresses the GEP's functional competency Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning. It has been approved to meet the GEP Sciences distribution requirement.*

- Understand and use mathematical and scientific methods of inquiry, reasoning, processes, and strategies to investigate and solve problems.
- Organize, interpret, draw inferences, and make predictions about natural or behavioral phenomena using mathematical and scientific models and theories.
- Recognize that mathematical, statistical, and scientific evidence requires evaluation.

#### Course goals:

- Solve 1-dimension and 2-dimension kinematics motion problems
- Apply Newton's laws to solve problems related to motion and force
- Apply energy principle to solve mechanics problems
- Apply conservation of momentum to solve problems related to collision
- Apply Newton's 2nd law for rotation to solve rotational dynamics problems
- Solve problems related to static equilibrium
- Apply conservation of angular momentum to solve problems
- Apply Newton's laws and energy principle to solve problems related to simple harmonic motion

Find more detailed learning goals for each unit in Blackboard under *Syllabus, learning goals, and equation sheet* tab.

---

## •Methods•

**FlipIt Physics prelectures and checkpoints**•View multimedia learning modules (MLMs) through the *FlipItPhysics* website. Respond to prelecture questions and checkpoint questions (multiple-choice items checking your understanding of the MLM content.) Due *some* class days at 8:50 AM (see day-by-day guide at the end of syllabus). Earn 80% of possible points for full credit.

*Life hack:* It pays to spend the WHOLE 20 or 25 minutes viewing the prelecture for a unit. Most of your learning will come with practice *applying* the material later, but the prelectures provide your foundation.

**Class and class participation**•Course content is delivered via MLMs; class offers opportunities for you to deepen your conceptual understanding and develop your problem-solving skills by working through questions posed by your instructor independently and at times in conversations with your peers. Bring your smartphone or tablet/ipad to each class to respond to questions using your *Turning* subscription. Always full credit for responding, not for getting it right. Six lowest class participation grades dropped. Find the pdf lecture outline the evening before each class on BB under *Course Materials*. *Print it out and take notes or annotate it on your tablet; don't spend our time together writing down what's projected on the screen instead of listening, thinking and discussing.*

**Discussion**•Designed to help you develop and refine your problem-solving skills with the help of your peers, TA, and LA. You'll complete and submit a written discussion packet each week, with grading based on both participation (attendance and effort within your group for the full session, 5 pts) and correctness (one randomly selected page, 5 pts.) Key posted on Blackboard under *Discussion materials* tab each Thursday at 7 PM. Best 12 of 14 count.

**FlipIt Physics homework (HW)**•HW assignments are designed to build conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills through systematic practice and feedback. Due (online, through *FlipItPhysics*) most Tuesdays and Thursdays at midnight. You're allowed 5 attempts for each numerical item; your response must be within 1% of the correct answer. Earn 80% of possible points for full credit. HW assignments offer a second deadline 24 hrs later for 80% credit. Keep a careful written record of your work for future studying.

*Pro tips: Use resources within FlipIt (prelecture examples, video solutions given for some HW problems), the supplementary text (Tipler), collaborate with classmates, attend instructor or TA homework help sessions or SI/PASS sessions for help. Searching for solutions online is less productive; you may manage to get the HW points with minimal effort, but miss the larger goal of mastering the material for the weekly quiz. Have the equation sheet (under the Syllabus, learning goals, and equation sheet tab) at hand.*

**Exams**•6 exams. Expect multiple-choice and other objective items, short free-response items, some qualitative and some quantitative, and a bigger free-response problem or two. Needed quantitative relationships will be provided (see the Blackboard tab *Syllabus, learning goals, and equation sheet*. Calculator allowed. *Given at 8 AM, in multiple lecture halls; check Blackboard for your assigned lecture hall and seat.*

**Final exam**•Similar to exams, comprehensive.

---

## •Policies•

**Grading**•5% for prelectures/checkpoints, 7.5% for homework, 7.5% for discussion, 5% for class participation (mainly responding to questions using your Turning subscription), 10% for each of 6 exams, 15% for final exam. 89.5% required for A, 79.5% for B, 69.5% for C, and 59.5% for D.

**Reclaiming and reviewing work**•Exams and discussion materials are returned to you in discussion. Exam solutions are posted on Blackboard at 5 PM after each exam. Please review graded work right away, and check that we enter your grades correctly. *Notify us of any grading mistakes within a week:* Contact your discussion TA about discussion grade mistakes. Get exams to me directly, or through the Physics Department office (Physics 221), along with a note describing the mistake. (For errors in assigning partial credit, make sure that you've examined the posted solutions and the grading scheme revealed therein, and that your note explicitly addresses the discrepancy. Your entire exam will be regraded.)

**Late and missed work**•It's expected that technical difficulties, illness, or attention to family matters may get in the way of completing your work from time to time. Therefore earning 80% of possible points on *FlipIt* prelectures/checkpoints and *FlipIt* HW will get you full credit. Examples: You earn 84% of possible HW points? That becomes 100%. You earn 71% of possible HW points? That becomes  $(71/80) * 100\% = 89\%$ . In addition, completing *FlipIt* HW to 24 hrs late gets you 80% of possible points. So if your HW is always late but always perfect you'll end up with a 100% HW grade.) In addition, your lowest two discussion grades will be dropped, and lowest six class participation grades will be dropped. If you must miss an exam due to officially sanctioned UMBC activities, illness, family emergency, detention by authorities, or another difficulty, contact me as soon as possible. With written verification of the cause of your absence, I'll arrange a makeup over the same material. Do let me know as soon as you can of any documented extended illness or family responsibilities that may impact your ability to keep up in the class, and we'll try to make a plan to keep you on track to succeed.

**Academic integrity**•*Academic integrity is an important value at UMBC. 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.* All instances of academic misconduct will be addressed according to the UMBC Policy on Academic Integrity (<https://www.umbc.edu/policies/pdfs/UMBC%20III%201.10.03%20Undergraduate%20Student%20Academic%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>) Examples include attempting to make use of disallowed materials on exams, attempting to communicate with anyone other than the instructor or TA during an exam, altering graded work and submitting it for regrading, asking someone else to take an exam in your place, copying another's work on homework, asking someone else to do homework and representing it as your own, and permitting or assisting another student to carry out any of the above. Penalties range from a grade of 0 on a homework or exam to an F in the course (at my discretion), and from denotation of academic misconduct on the transcript to expulsion (as determined by official hearing of the Academic Conduct Committee.)

---

## •Getting help•

**Monitor your performance**•The best indicator of your expected grade in the course is the “weighted total” that may be found in Blackboard in *MyGrades*. (*FlipIt* (12.5% of your final course grade) will be factored into your weighted total at the end of semester.)

**Drop by the Physics Tutorial Center (PTC)**•Physics 226A, open 12 – 4 PM Monday through Thursday. Staffed by instructors and graduate TAs. My own hours in the PTC are Mondays 12:10 – 1 PM, Tuesdays 2 – 3 PM, and Wednesdays 1 – 2 PM.

**Attend online help sessions**•Offered via *Blackboard Collaborate (Course room)*, TA hours: Lizbeth T: Tues 5 – 7 PM Bhavesh V: Thursday 5 – 7 PM. My own weekly sessions are Thursdays 1:30 – 2:20 PM. Please turn on your mic and webcam, and ideally prepare to point your webcam at your written work or share your device screen.

**Try practice exam items**•On blackboard under *Exam practice*.

**Hop on the Discord server**•To discuss class and discussion material and prepare for exams. Details forthcoming on Blackboard.

**Supplemental Instruction Peer assisted study sessions (SI PASS)**•A successful peer from a recent semester leads twice-weekly study sessions. More info on BB.

**UMBC's Academic Success Center (ASC)** •Provides a range of resources to support students as they progress toward degree completion. The ASC has created a specialized set of [Online Learning Resources](#). In addition, check out the following resources:

- [Academic Success Center Resources](#) include: Online tutoring and writing support, supplemental instruction peer-assisted study sessions ([SI PASS](#)), placement testing, FYI academic alerts, success courses, academic advocacy, academic policy and academic success meetings.
- [Tutoring and Writing Center Appointments](#)
- [Academic Advocates](#): Advocates work one-on-one with students who need support navigating academic and institutional challenges, no matter how complex the concerns (i.e., personal, academic, or financial).
- [Academic Success Meetings](#) - Schedule a one-to-one virtual meeting with an Academic Success Center Professional who can help you with time management, study skills, and accessing campus resources.

If you have a question, please contact the ASC at [academicsuccess@umbc.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@umbc.edu)

**[Technology Support Center](#)**•Offers help with technology-related concerns.

**[Student Disability Services \(SDS\)](#)**•UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Services for students with disabilities are provided for all students qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADAAA of 2009, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that would allow for students to have equal access and inclusion in all courses, programs, and activities at the University. If you have a documented disability and would like to request academic accommodations, please refer to the SDS website for registration information and to begin the process. For any questions or concerns, you may contact us through email at [disAbility@umbc.edu](mailto:disAbility@umbc.edu) or phone at (410) 455-2459.

**Something else?**•Please email me ([andersoe@umbc.edu](mailto:andersoe@umbc.edu)) and I'll try to help.

## •Day-by-day guide•

FlipIt Physics prelecture/checkpoints, FlipIt Physics Homework (HW), Discussion,  
Quizzes and Exams, Supplemental source: (Tipler), No meetings

Week of:	Monday	Wednesday	Discussion (Wed or Thur)	Friday
30 Aug- 3 Sep		<p>***Special***</p> <p>Blackboard syllabus quiz due <b>Tuesday</b> midnight</p> <p>***Special***</p> <p><b>Welcome to the course</b></p>	Practice with preliminary ideas	<p><u>Motion</u></p> <p>Unit 1 One-dimensional kinematics (1.3-4, 2.1-4)</p>
6-10 Sep		<p>Unit 2 Vectors and two-dimensional kinematics (1.6-7, 3.1-2)</p> <p>Unit 1 HW (due Thurs midnight)</p>	Units 1-2	<p>Unit 3 Relative and circular motion (3.1, 3)</p>
13-17 Sep	Units 2-3 HW (due Tues midnight)	<p><u>Force</u></p> <p>Unit 4 Newton's Laws (4.1-5,7)</p>	Unit 3	<p>Exam 1 Motion (Units 1-3)</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>No class</p>
20-24 Sep	<p>Unit 5 Forces and free-body diagrams (4.6,8, 5.3)</p> <p>Unit 4 HW (due Tues midnight)</p>	Unit 5 HW (due Thurs midnight)	Units 4-5	<p>Unit 6 Friction (5.1)</p>
27 Sep- 1 Oct	Unit 6 HW (due Tues midnight)	<p><u>Energy</u></p> <p>Unit 7 Work and kinetic energy (6.1-4, 11.2-3)</p>	Unit 6	<p>Exam 2 Force (Units 4-6)</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>No class</p>

4-8 Oct	Unit 8 Conservative forces and potential energy (7.1-3, 11.2-3)  Unit 7 HW (due Tues midnight)	Unit 8 HW (due Thurs midnight)	Units 7-8	Unit 9 Work and potential energy I  (7.1-3, 11.2-3)
11-15 Oct	Unit 9 HW (due Tues midnight)	<u>Momentum</u>  Unit 10 Center of mass  (5.5, 6.5)	Unit 9	Exam 3 Energy (Units 7-9)  8 AM  No class
18-22 Oct	Unit 11 Conservation of momentum  (8.1,3)  Unit 10 HW (due Tues midnight)	Unit 12 Elastic collisions  (8.3-4)  Unit 11 HW (due Thurs midnight)	Units 10-12	Unit 13 Collisions, impulse, and reference frames  (8.2-3)
25-29 Oct	Units 12-13 HW (due Tues midnight)		Unit 13	Exam 4 Momentum (Units 10-13)  8 AM  No class
1-5 Nov	<u>Rotation</u>  Unit 14 Rotational kinematics and moment of inertia  (9.1-3)	Unit 14 HW (due Thurs midnight)	Unit 14	Unit 15 Parallel axis theorem and torque  (9.3-4)
8-12 Nov	Unit 15 HW (due Tues midnight)	Unit 16 Rotational dynamics  (9.4-6)	Units 15-16	
15-19 Nov	Unit 16 HW (due Tues midnight)	<u>Statics</u>  Unit 17 Rotational statics  (12.1-5)	Unit 16	Exam 5 Rotation (Units 14-16)  8 AM  No class
22-26 Nov	Unit 18 Rotational statics II  (12.1-5)  Unit 17 HW (due Tues midnight)			

29 Nov- 3 Dec	<u>Angular momentum</u> Unit 19 Angular momentum (10.1-3) Unit 18 HW (due Tues midnight)	Unit 19 HW (due Thurs midnight)	Units 17-18	Unit 20 Angular momentum vector and precession  (10.1-3)
6-10 Dec	Unit 20 HW (due Tues midnight)	<u>Oscillations</u> Unit 21 Simple harmonic motion (14.1-3)	Units 19-20	Exam 6 Statics and Angular momentum (Units 17-20)  8 AM  No class
13-17 Dec	Unit 21 HW (due MON midnight)		Final Exam: Units 1-21  8-10 AM	