

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This algebra-based physics course is intended for those majoring in the life sciences and others for whom basic knowledge of physics is helpful or desired.

LEARNING GOALS

This course addresses the General education program (GEP)'s functional competency Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning. It has been approved to meet the GEP Sciences distribution requirement. In particular, it addresses the following two competencies:

- 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.

By the end of this semester, students should be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

1. Qualitatively and quantitatively reason with definitions of distance, displacement, speed, velocity, and acceleration.
2. Create and interpret graphs of position vs. time, velocity vs. time, and acceleration vs. time.
3. Solve problems related to one-dimensional and two-dimensional motion.
4. Identify forces and draw free-body diagrams, calculate components and vector sums of forces.
5. Apply Newton's laws of motion to solve problems involving conservative and non-conservative forces and motion.
6. Apply equilibrium conditions to extended objects to determine unknown forces and torques.
7. Apply conservation of energy to solve problems involving energy transfers and transformations for a system.
8. Apply the first law of thermodynamics and the ideal gas law to solve problems relating to thermal processes for ideal gases.
9. Apply properties of fluid pressure and Archimedes' principle to solve problems relating to buoyancy.

PREREQUISITE

Algebra including trigonometry

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Lili Cui lili@umbc.edu

Office hour:

- Mon 2:10-3:00 PM, Wed 11:30 AM-12:20 PM Fri 11:00-11:50 AM, in PHYS 226A
- Visiting my office hour is the best way of contact. The time is set aside for you, and you will get individual attention. I'd love to use the time to know you in person.

Email policy:

- Physics related questions should be posted on the *Discord* instead of personal email so everyone in class can benefit from the discussion.
- Email is a great method for non-physics questions. Please include your full name, course number, and use your UMBC email address to ensure prompt response.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER MATERIAL

- A reliable computer, reliable Internet access, and a microphone
- College Physics: A Strategic Approach by Knight, Jones, and Field, 4th ed.
- PollEverywhere App
- A clear and focused mind, positive attitude, and patience

SUCCESS STRATEGY

- Be sure you have the time required for the course. You are expected to attend all classes – lectures and labs. In addition, experience shows that success requires at least 8 hours of intensive effort outside of class each week. If you typically spend much less than 8 hours of outside study, you are unlikely to be able to learn the material. If you typically spend much more than 12 hours of outside study, you should consult with the instructor about ways to study more efficiently.
- Physics is about understanding, not memorization. Instead of only paying attention to results, it is more important to understand how you get results.
- You have many resources including the textbook, study group, your friends, Teaching Assistants, me, YouTube and more. Use them wisely.
- It is essential to develop an ability to think and learn for yourself. You must be actively engaged to learn the material, you cannot passively watch me or your classmates and expect to understand the concepts and develop problem solving skills. Cognitive science has proven that the mind must interact to learn.

Success in the course is not “a piece of cake” but can be achieved with effort and the right study strategies.

GRADING POLICY

Type of Assignment	Percentage
Homework	15%
Lab	10%
Quiz	25%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

I do not grade on a curve. Why should I assume that x% of you will be failing this course? If you all do an excellent job, you all deserve an A. How well your neighbor is doing should not affect your grade. Help each other and learn from each other.

90.0% or Above	A
80.0% - 89.9%	B
70.0% - 79.9%	C
60.0% - 69.9%	D
59.9% or Below	F

- There is NO extra credit at the end of the term. It is far easier to fix problems early in the semester than after the tests have been taken.
- Check your grades on Blackboard routinely. Please contact me or your TA for any grading questions within TWO days after grade is available.

LECTURE

- Lectures focus on deepening your understanding of the more difficult concepts and developing scientific reasoning and systematic problem-solving skills, not on delivering the basic content.
- The lecture PowerPoint slides will be posted on Blackboard the night before every lecture. You are expected to print them out to take lecture notes on; it gives you the structure of every lecture and facilitates the note-taking process. But remember these slides are not the complete content of the class but only an outline, studying them out is not a substitute for attending lectures.
- Poll Everywhere App will be used to promote active learning by providing instant feedback for both the instructor and students. It is not required but highly recommended.
- If you miss one lecture, you are responsible for making up the material.

LAB

- You must attend the lab section that you are officially registered for.
- Many of the main concepts of the course will be introduced or reinforced in weekly laboratory sessions, through direct experience with the physical world. *In some cases, later lectures will build on the understanding you achieve in lab.*
- Lab grade will be divided between your full participation and submitted work.
- Your lab TA will give specific guidelines.

HOMEWORK

- A major part of what I expect you to learn in this class will come as a result of doing homework. The homework assignments are designed primarily to build conceptual understanding, develop scientific reasoning skills, and provide practice and feedback with systematic problem solving. You need to fully *understand* how to solve the assigned homework problems to do well on the quizzes and to succeed in the course.
- Individual homework will be submitted via Blackboard, typically due on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at 11:59:00 PM, however the due dates may be adjusted on occasions.
- Homework questions are not easy, and you will find yourself spend a lot of time on them. This is expected. Don't put off assignments until the hour before they are due. Instead start your homework early enough so you have time to get help.
- You are encouraged to work together, however, you must fully understand how to solve problems on your own.
- Since the main purpose of homework is to prepare you for the quizzes and exams, keep a careful written record of your work for future studying.
- There are websites where you can view (or perhaps purchase) solutions to homework problems. I cannot stop you from cheating, but I strongly recommend you don't. *Consider your goals...are you trying to just get the homework done or do you actually want to learn something?* I guarantee that the more you use solutions written by someone else, the less likely you will be able to produce your own solutions on quizzes and exams.

QUIZ

- You have to do well on all quizzes to be able to get a good grade for the course.
- The lectures, homework, and lab activities will help you acquire the understanding and problem-solving skills you'll need.
- Weekly quizzes will be given on Fridays at 8:00-8:50 am, online in Blackboard. You must access the quiz between 8:00-8:20 am. Each quiz is 30 minutes long.
- Quizzes are cumulative.
- Quizzes are individual work, and academic integrity will be enforced. They are open book and open note, but you cannot talk to anyone nor access Internet to search for answers. No cell phones or other communication devices.

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAM

- The midterm and final exams are in person and cumulative.
- See schedule for the exact time and dates.

MAKE UP POLICY

Life is full of surprises so it's understandable that you might miss an assignment or two. The course policy has been set up to accommodate a few unexpected situations.

- Homework: Lowest two scores will be dropped. These count towards ALL problems with technology and other absences.
- Quiz: Lowest two quiz scores will be dropped. These count towards ALL problems with technology and other absences.
- Lab: If you must miss a lab for legitimate reasons*, contact your TA and me as soon as possible. With written verification of your absence, you might be allowed to attend the makeup lab scheduled on Week 15. Only one make up lab is allowed for the entire semester.
- Midterm and Final Exams: If you must miss an exam for legitimate reasons*, contact me before the scheduled exam. Failure to do so could result in a zero for that exam. With written verification of your absence, a makeup exam can be arranged.

**Legitimate reasons are defined as officially sanctioned UMBC activities, illness, family emergency, detention by authorities, or another insurmountable difficulty. I'll request written verification for the cause of your absence.*

FREE TUTORING

- Physics Tutoring Center is located in PHYS 226A and it offers free walk-in tutoring. Operation hours and staffing information will be posted in our Blackboard site.
- Academic Success Center also supplies free tutoring service by appointment. To make an appointment, please visit <https://academicsuccess.umbc.edu/tutoring/>

COURSE WEBSITE

I will put most of my teaching materials in our course site through Blackboard. After log in myUMBC, click on the "Blackboard" tab and then click on "PHYS111 - SP2025" in the "My Courses" area. You are responsible for all content delivered via Blackboard. You are *required* to logon to the course website *at least once between lectures*.

You will use the website for:

- Checking the *Announcements*.
- Accessing *Course Materials*: syllabus, lectures note, homework, lab, and etc.
- Checking the *Grades* that you have earned.

Discord server will be set up and used for 24/7 online interaction outside of the classroom.

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 the UMBC Student Handbook.
- ALL incidents of alleged Academic Misconduct will be reported.

DISABILITIES

Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided for all students with a qualified disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA & ADAAA) 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 creates equal access for students when barriers to participation exist in University courses, programs, or activities.

If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations in your courses, please refer to the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu for registration information and office procedures.

SDS email: disAbility@umbc.edu SDS phone: 410-455-2459

If you will be using SDS approved accommodations in this class, please contact the instructor to discuss implementation of the accommodations.

SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND GENDER BIASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

UMBC Policy in addition to federal and state law (to include Title IX) prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in University programs and activities. Any student who is impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, gender discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, gender-based harassment, or related retaliation should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator to make a report and/or access support and resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached at titleixcoordinator@umbc.edu or 410-455-1717.

You can access support and resources even if you do not want to take any further action. You will not be forced to file a formal complaint or police report. Please be aware that the University may take action on its own if essential to protect the safety of the community.

If you are interested in making a report, please use the [Online Reporting/Referral Form](#). Please note that, if you report anonymously, the University's ability to respond will be limited.

Notice that Faculty and Teaching Assistants are Responsible Employees with Mandatory Reporting Obligations

Teaching Assistant Lab Assignment

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 AM		Lab 05 (4722) 8:30-10:20 AM <i>Md Idris A.</i>			
9:00					
9:30					
10:00					
10:30					
11:00		Lab 06 (4723) 11:30-1:20 <i>Christian E.</i>			
11:30					
12:00 PM					
12:30					
1:00	Lab 02 (4720) 1:00-2:50 PM <i>Olivia D.</i>	Lab 07 (4724) 2:00-3:50 PM <i>Christian E.</i>			
1:30					
2:00					
2:30	Lab 03 (4721) 3:00-4:50 PM <i>Olivia D.</i>	Lab 08 (5203) 4:00-5:50 PM <i>Olivia D.</i>			
3:00					
3:30					
4:00					
4:30	Lab 10 (5510) 5:00-6:50 PM <i>Christian E.</i>	Lab 04 (5766) 7:00-8:50 PM <i>Md Idris A.</i>			
5:00					
5:30					
6:00					
6:30	Lab 11 (5566) 7:00-8:50 PM <i>Md Idris A.</i>	Lab 04 (5766) 7:00-8:50 PM <i>Md Idris A.</i>			
7:00					
7:30					
8:00					
8:30					

**TEACHING
ASSITANT
INFO**

Md Idris Ali
Olivia Danner
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PHYS 111 – Spring 2025 Schedule*

	Date	Lecture Topic	Textbook	Lab
Week 1	Jan 27 (M)	Introduction and Human Motion		No Lab
	Jan 29 (W)	Position and Velocity	1.1-1.6	
	Jan 31 (F)	Quiz 1 (8AM) , more on Velocity	2.1-2.3	
Week 2	Feb 03 (M)	Acceleration	2.4	Lab #1 Introduction to Motion
	Feb 05 (W)	More on Acceleration		
	Feb 07 (F)	Quiz 2 (8AM) , 1D Kinematics	2.5	
Week 3	Feb 10 (M)	More on 1D Kinematics	2.6	Lab #2 Changing Motion
	Feb 12 (W)	Free Fall	2.7	
	Feb 14 (F)	Quiz 3 (8AM) , Vectors	3.1-3.4	
Week 4	Feb 17 (M)	Projectile Motion	3.5	Lab #3 Mathematical Models of Motion
	Feb 19 (W)	More on Projectile Motion	3.6	
	Feb 21 (F)	Quiz 4 (8AM) , Kinematics of Circular	3.7	
Week 5	Feb 24 (M)	Exam 1 (10:00-10:50 AM, in person), location TBA		Lab #4 Force and Motion
	Feb 26 (W)	Newton's 1 st and 2 nd Laws	4.1-4.7	
	Feb 28 (F)	Newton's 3 rd Law	5.1-5.2	
Week 6	Mar 03 (M)	Applying Newton's Laws	5.3-5.4	Lab #5 Force, Mass, and Acceleration
	Mar 05 (W)	Friction	5.5	
	Mar 07 (F)	Quiz 5 (8AM) , Interacting Objects	5.7-5.8	
Week 7	Mar 10 (M)	Ramp		Lab #6 Gravitational Forces
	Mar 12 (W)	Dynamics of Circular Motion	6.1-6.4	
	Mar 14 (F)	Quiz 6 (8AM) , Gravitation and Circular	6.5-6.6	
Week 8	Mar 17-21	Spring Break		
Week 9	Mar 24 (M)	Torque	7.3-7.4	Lab #7 Torque
	Mar 26 (W)	Static Equilibrium	8.1	
	Mar 28 (F)	Quiz 7 (8AM) , Applications		
Week 10	Mar 31 (M)	Exam 2 (10:00-10:50 AM, in person), location TBA		Lab #8 Static Equilibrium
	Apr 02 (W)	Spring Force	8.3	
	Apr 04 (F)	Young's Modulus	8.4	
Week 11	Apr 07 (M)	Work and Energy	10.1-10.2	Lab #9 Elasticity
	Apr 09 (W)	Kinetic Energy and Potential Energy	10.3-10.4	
	Apr 11 (F)	Quiz 8 (8AM) , Energy Principle	10.5-10.7	
Week 12	Apr 14 (M)	Power	10.10	Lab #10 Energy Principle
	Apr 16 (W)	Metabolic Energy	11.1-11.2	
	Apr 18 (F)	Quiz 9 (8AM) , Mass and Spring Oscillation	14.1-14.2	
Week 13	Apr 21 (M)	Simple Harmonic Motion	14.3-14.4	Lab #11 Oscillation
	Apr 23 (W)	Pendulum	14.5	
	Apr 25 (F)	Quiz 10 (8AM) , Ideal Gas Law	12.1-12.3	
Week 14	Apr 28 (M)	Thermal Energy and Work	11.3-11.4	Lab #12 First Law of Thermodynamics
	Apr 30 (W)	Heat and First Law of Thermodynamics	12.5-12.7	
	May 02 (F)	Quiz 11 (8AM) , Density and Pressure	13.1-13.2	
Week 15	May 05 (M)	Buoyant Force	13.3	Makeup Lab
	May 07 (W)	More on Buoyant Force		
	May 09 (F)	Quiz 12 (8AM) , Review		
Week 16	May 12 (M)	Summary		No Lab
Final	May 19 (M)	Final Exam (comprehensive, in person); 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, location TBA		

*This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted. Refer to Blackboard for the most updated information.