

Physics 2a, Fall 2013. Syllabus

* See <http://keni.ucsd.edu/f13/> and TED site for more information. Check there regularly for announcements, HW, etc.

- Lectures (w/professor): On Monday, Tuesday evening, and Wednesdays. There will also be lectures on the first and last Friday of the quarter.

- Discussion / problem sessions (w/TAs): on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

- Attendance: You can decide for yourself which sessions you want to attend. Lectures are highly recommended, and will be pod-casted. Discussion and problem sessions are completely optional.

- Quizzes: every Friday, from Oct 4 through Nov 22. Top 6 (of 8) scores count toward your grade. No makeup quizzes can be given. If you have to miss one or two quizzes, **for whatever reason (even if it's a good one)**, you will get a zero on that quiz, and it will be one of your dropped quizzes. If you have to be away for more than two Friday quiz days, drop this course and take it another quarter.

Bring the following to every quiz: student ID, number 2 pencil, eraser, scantron sheet, one 3 by 5 card with whatever you like on it, front and back. **NO CALCULATORS OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

YOU MUST TAKE THE QUIZ DURING YOUR ASSIGNED LECTURE TIME. (NOT THE OTHER SESSION.)

- Thanksgiving Break: No lectures on Tues 11/26 or Weds 11/27. The Friday lectures on 9/27 and 12/6 make up for skipping 11/26 and 11/27.

- Final: bring the same things as for the quizzes, except this time you can bring a full sheet of paper (8.5 by 11), front and back. It is of course cumulative for the entire course. **EVERYTHING DISCUSSED IN ANY LECTURE, UNLESS YOU ARE SPECIFICALLY TOLD IT'S "JUST FOR FUN," IS FAIR GAME FOR THE EXAMS.**

NO FINALS OUTSIDE OF THE ASSIGNED TIME. IF YOU HAVE A CONFLICT, TAKE THE CLASS A DIFFERENT QUARTER. CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES NOW.

- Don't even think of cheating on any of the exams. We will be on the lookout, and use various means to randomly cross-check student's integrity. Any cases will be forwarded to the academic integrity office, and the punishment will be extremely severe: an F grade, possibly being kicked out of UCSD for a quarter or more, etc. Enabling someone else to cheat off you is punished the same as cheating yourself. It'd be extremely stupid to risk it.

- Grading: 6 best quizzes = 50%, final = 50%.

• Grade cutoffs: a blend, working in your favor, of absolute and curved grading:

$A+$: Greater than 95, or mean $+2.5\sigma$, whichever is less.

A : Greater than 80, or mean $+1.5\sigma$, whichever is less.

$A-$: Greater than 75, or mean $+1\sigma$, whichever is less.

$B+$: Greater than 70, or mean $+0.5\sigma$, whichever is less.

B : Greater than 65, or the mean, whichever is less.

$B-$: Greater than 60, or the mean -0.5σ , whichever is less.

$C+$: Greater than 55, or the mean -1σ , whichever is less.

C : Greater than 50, or the mean -1.5σ , whichever is less.

$C-$: Greater than 45, or the mean -2σ , whichever is less.

D : Greater than 30, or the mean -2.5σ , whichever is less.

F : Anything below the above cutoff for a D .

The grading will be done by a heartless computer. In a class of this size, the grades will be nearly continuously distributed. It is inevitable that some people will fall a fraction of a point below the cutoff. Sadly, the only fair thing is to stick to the grades and cutoffs which the computer spits out. DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CONVINCING US TO MODIFY YOUR GRADE, BECAUSE OF SOME PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. AGAIN, THE ONLY FAIR THING FOR EVERYONE IS TO RIGIDLY STICK TO THE MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS LISTED ABOVE.