

Physics 2020 Laboratory/Recitation

General Information for Students

Spring 2009

Lab Goals

- To develop skills in laboratory measurement, estimation, argument, justification and reasoning
- To support the concepts developed in the lectures and homework sets
- To explore creatively the fundamental principles of physics and their consequences
- To have fun -- yes! -- fun

Lab Expectations

- Download and print a copy of each week's lab or recitation assignment.
- Complete your pre-lab homework and turn it in upon entering the lab.
- Show up on time. Finish during the allotted time of one hour and fifty minutes. Late-arriving students will not be given extra time.
- Bring pencils, pens, a scientific calculator, and at least several sheets of paper. Don't use sloppy scratch paper, even for jotting down numbers! When taking data you should organize things so that you can refer to them later. You can use a bound logbook if you like, although these will not be turned in.
- Work collaboratively in the lab, in groups of 2-4 defined by the lab instructor.
- Everyone is to turn in a separate, *original* lab write-up.
- Be creative and thorough, and have fun.

Lab Grading

- Your overall lab/recitation grade will count for 15% of your course grade. The prelab will contribute with 1/3 and the lab will contribute with 2/3 to your lab grade. For each prelab question you will receive from 0 to 1 point. For each lab you will receive from 0 to 2 points. Your participation/effort in the prelab/lab may affect your grade for better or worse.
- You will receive a zero if you miss a lab or do not turn in your write-up (and do not make it up). If you turn in a very low-quality lab report with no prelab, it is possible to get a zero.
- **If you receive more than two scores of zero on your labs, you will receive a failing grade for the course!**

Makeups

- It is incumbent upon the student missing the lab to make it up, or you will receive a zero.
- **Makeups the same week:** If you must miss a lab, arrange to visit another section the same week, and notify your substitute TA. He or she will sign your report, after which it is *your* responsibility to deliver it to your original TA.
- **Makeups after the lab week:** If you can't make up a lab the same week, notify your TA and make arrangements for a makeup lab. Out-of-week makeup labs will be available *only* during certain time periods. Makeup sessions for labs 1-4 will occur during February 23-27, for labs 5-7 during March 30 – April 3 and makeup sessions for labs 8-10 will occur during April 27 – May 1.
- *There are no other opportunities to make up a lab.*

Recitations

- Recitations meet on non-lab weeks at the normal lab time. You will work in groups on further problems during the recitation session.
- There will be plenty of time in recitations for discussion and question-answer sessions. The recitation is *your* time to initiate discussions or explanations of topics or problems.