

PHY211 General Physics 1 Laboratory
Spring 2011 Section 01 Wednesday 3:00 pm - 4:50 pm, WSB 107

Instructor

Dr. Amy Forestell
WSB 136
257-3750
forestea@newpaltz.edu

Office hours:

Monday 3:15-4:15
Tuesday 2:00-4:00
Wednesday 11:00-12:00
and by appointment

Laboratory Objectives

- To deepen the students' understanding of the relationship between physical theory and experimental measurement
- To improve the students' ability to express the results of scientific thinking and measurement in a clear and logical manner

Required Materials

- 2 bound lab notebooks (no spirals or wireless tear-out)
- Calculator with basic scientific functions

Grading Format

Laboratory Exercises

Each week you will do a laboratory activity in class. The following week you will turn in your lab notebook containing all of your data and calculations, as well as the answers to analysis questions given in the lab handout. Your notebook will be graded based on clarity and completeness (see Lab Notebook Handout) and the analysis questions will be graded based on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts involved. You need two notebooks for class because each week your professor will be grading one and you will be working on one at home.

Poster Preparation and Presentation

With your partner(s) you will choose one of the experiments performed during the semester to present in poster format. Time will be allotted during the last lab class for in-class work on the posters. We will hold a poster presentation for all lab sections on Thursday May 12th (exact time TBA). This is the common exam day. Please make the appropriate arrangements to attend. Separate materials will be available to describe the poster requirements and the poster session procedure.

There are no tests or quizzes; there is no final exam.

Your grade will be determined in the following way:

- 85% laboratory exercises (10 points each)
- 15% poster preparation and presentation

Dropped Lab Grade/Missed Lab

Each student's lowest lab grade will be dropped. If a student is absent and misses a lab activity then that will count as their dropped lab. This means that each student may miss one lab activity during the semester without penalty. Any subsequent missed lab activities will be given a grade of zero. Students who do not miss any classes will simply have their lowest lab grade dropped.

Late Work

Typically, exercises are conducted in class and the lab notebooks are due the following week in class. Lab books turned in after that time will lose 1 point per school day (out of 10 points total).

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. As a laboratory course there are interactions that cannot be reproduced on your own. The above missed lab policy exists because unavoidable situations sometimes arise which may cause you to miss class. Use your missed lab wisely. Sometimes it may be possible for you to make up a lab, but you must have an excused reason for missing class and you must notify the professor *in advance* of your absence to make alternate arrangements.

Blackboard

I will use the Blackboard course management software as part of this class. The Blackboard system is located at <https://blackboard.newpaltz.edu/> or via a link on the main New Paltz website. Course materials such as the lab activities we do each week will be posted to the class website. I will also use this system to communicate with you; make sure your email address in the Blackboard system is one that is current and checked regularly.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their academic work. Cheating, forgery, and plagiarism are serious offenses, and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. You may work with others only under the conditions described in the section "Collaboration".

Collaboration

Science is a collaborative effort. Therefore, you are expected to work with your classmates, share ideas, discover together, and learn from each other. However, you must adhere to the following rules:

- Clearly indicate your partners' name(s) at the beginning of all collaborative work;
- Distribute work fairly with each person making an equal contribution to all parts;
- Everyone writes his or her own notes, observations, calculations, etc.;
- You may discuss answers to analysis questions with your partners, but your answers should be written in your own words;
- Everyone turns in his or her own notebook.

Students With Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who believe that they will need classroom and/or testing accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center in the Student Union, room 210, 257-3020 as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. The DRC will provide forms verifying the need for accommodations for you to deliver to your instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be put into place once the instructor receives the form.