

## Physics 161 Course Syllabus, Fall 2005, section 161001

### Elements of Physics for Architects and Interior Design Students

**Catalog description:** Chosen topics in physics for architecture and interior design students. Course emphasizes material development by logic and lecture demonstrations. Prereq: Intermediate Algebra and one year of geometry.

**Meeting time:** MWF 12:20 – 1:10 p.m.

**Meeting place:** Nielsen Physics Bldg., Room 415

#### Instructor

Dr. Stuart Elston

515 Nielsen Physics Bldg.

(865) 974-7818

[selston@utk.edu](mailto:selston@utk.edu)

Office Hours:

Virtual (email): Mostly throughout normal workdays.

In person: MWF 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.; other times by appointment.

**Required Textbook:** Physics, Fifth Edition, by Giancoli. *Caution:* you may also find a sixth edition in the bookstores; for this course, make sure you get the *fifth* edition. It will probably be a used book; this should help keep your cost down.

#### Other Required Material:

1. An access code to WebAssign online homework system; these are available at the UC Bookstore or online (via credit card sale) at <http://www.webassign.net/>
2. Personal Response System infrared remote (“clicker”); these will be issued (on loan) on the first day of class and must be returned on the last day of class to receive a final grade; lost clickers will cost the loser \$50.00. Please take care of your clicker.

**Prerequisites:** as listed in the catalog description, above.

#### Resources:

**Physics Tutorial Center:** The tutorial center is generally open weekdays from 11:15 to either 3:30 (MF) or 4:35 (TWR) and is held in Nielsen Physics Room 203 (except on Friday, when it’s held in Room 201). The official schedule and other information is at [http://www.phys.utk.edu/tutorial\\_center/](http://www.phys.utk.edu/tutorial_center/). Note that the tutorial center does not begin operation this semester until September 7.

**WebAssign:** Come to me first about WebAssign issues. WebAssign has a tech support staff, but *lots* of people use it and they are likely to be very busy – so, try asking a savvy friend first, me second, and the WebAssign help crew last. This way, I will be “in the loop” and will learn about any weaknesses of WebAssign as you do.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library at 865-974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**Course Schedule:** A tentative schedule for the course is posted in the Course Schedule folder in the Course Information area of the course Blackboard site. If this schedule should change for any reason, I will post a notice in the Announcements area of the course Blackboard site.

**Grading Policies:**

**Final Course Grade Structure:**

Component of final grade	Weight (%)
In-class reading quizzes	10
Online homework	40
Exams (4 @ 12.5% each)	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Final Course Grade Scale:**

90.0 – 100%	A
85.0 – 89.9%	B+
75.0 – 84.9%	B
70.0 – 74.9%	C+
60.0 – 69.9%	C
50.0 – 59.9%	D
0 – 49.9%	F

**In-class Reading Quizzes:** Just as in literature classes, where you are expected to have read the short story or novel before it is discussed in class, I expect that you have read the chapter material before we discuss it in class. To reward you for having done so, I will give you a 10% contribution to your final grade score based on the best 30 out of 36 short, 3-question quizzes, which will be administered at the beginning of every lecture period. The quizzes will emphasize familiarity with the reading assignment, as opposed to deep understanding of the material.

**Exams:** There are four hour exams scheduled, plus a final. The hour exams will each cover portions of the text material (as listed in the Course Schedule), but the final exam will be comprehensive. No makeup exams will be given. Instead, I will only count the best 4 out of 5 exams (including the final). Thus, if you take all four hour exams and are happy with your grades, you may skip the final. Or, if you have missed one of the hour exams, then the final becomes, in effect, your makeup. Or, if you have one particularly poor hour exam result, the final gives you a chance to redeem yourself.

I will do my best to ensure that exam questions are similar in style and content to assigned homework questions – there is no point in surprising you, and I want you to succeed as much as you do. Similar in style and content means multiple choice, simple one-word answer, or short essay-style questions.

See the Course Schedule (in the Course Information area of the course Blackboard site) for scheduled exam dates.

*Be sure to bring official UT ID to all exams.*

**Online Homework:** Homework will be assigned, collected, and graded electronically, using the online system called [WebAssign](http://www.webassign.net) (<http://www.webassign.net>). To access this system, you will need to purchase an *access code*. Access code cards are available at the UC Book and Supply Store and other area stores selling textbooks, or you can purchase access online with a credit card.

In general, homework assignments will become posted to the WebAssign site as the previous assignment becomes due. Assignment due dates are listed in the Course Schedule.

I expect to give 15 problem assignments throughout the semester. I also plan to drop the lowest two problem set scores from the final course average. This is subject to change if the number of total assignments changes significantly, which I do not expect.