Syllabus and general items – Physics Lab 221006

Lab Instructor: Dan Parshall  Recitation Room/Time: Physics 608/ Tue 4.45pm
Email: dparshal@utk.edu  Laboratory Room/Time: Physics 508/ Tue 5.45pm
Office Hour: Wednesday 3.25-4.35 in room Physics 203, or by appointment

Correspondence:
Please conduct all correspondence through UTK email accounts. Check your email at least every other
day, since I sometimes require responses within 72 hours of a posted message.

Attendance:
Attendance is vital to success in physics. While roll will not be called, there will be a short quiz
administered at the beginning of every lab or recitation.

Absence:
As soon as you know you will not be able to attend a lab, regardless of the reason, contact me; you can
conduct the experiment during another instructor’s class. Excused absences (illness with a note from a
doctor, athletic activity, etc.) may make up the quiz, as well. One unexcused absence may be made up
during the make-up week near the end of the semester. Regardless of the reason for the absence,
you must have all labs completed by the end of the semester or you will receive an “Incomplete”
for the course.

Lab Reports:
The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else; this is the goal of a lab report. Your lab
report should be written so that a friend of yours could read it, understand what you did, recreate the
experiment, and gather meaningful results. The process of breaking down the information to explain to
someone else will make you understand the material. The grading for lab reports will reflect this goal. A
copy of the Physics Department guidelines for lab reports will be passed out with this syllabus. Please
note that I place a far stronger emphasis on the Purpose/Method section than the handbook indicates. I
expect a clear description of the process you undergo to achieve your results, as well as the reason that
each step is performed. The university policies on plagiarism are clear, and they apply to lab reports as
well; copying from the lab manual for your report will be considered plagiarism.

Lab Partners:
Each lab will be conducted with a different lab partner. I strongly recommend that you email yourselves
copies of the lab data. This provides a useful backup, if you remember to swap email addresses.

Participation:
Read the lab before coming to class. You can find out what experiment will be done that week by
checking the schedule at http://www.phys.utk.edu/physlabs.html Be prepared to begin working on the lab
as soon as the quiz or recitation is completed. Follow through on any trivial yet important tasks assigned
by me. First assignment: send me an email from your UTK account within 72 hours.

Grading:
I generally use a very simple integer point scale to grade each report or item; averaging over many such
items yields reliable information about your performance in the course. The final scale works out to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(zero or one point)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(zero or one point)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Reports (80%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose/Method</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(zero, one, two or three points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(zero, one or two points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everything else</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(zero, one, two or three points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>(zero to ten points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>