

## Physics 250 – Modern Physics Spring 2019

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Christine Natrass

Office: SERF 609

Phone: 974-6211

Email: [christine.natrass@utk.edu](mailto:christine.natrass@utk.edu)

Office hours: TBA

**Teaching Assistants:** TBA

### **Texts:**

- Web-based, interactive class modules – See Canvas for web site. Sessions too far ahead may not reflect this year's activities so you are encouraged to follow announcements for the current assignments and course material.
- Taylor/Zafiratos/Dubson, Modern Physics, 2nd edition  
ISBN 0-13-805715-X

### **Class Structure:**

Students meet **Tuesday and Thursday 2:10-4:55 in room 203, Nielsen Physics Building**. Students will listen to short lectures, engage in discussions, help with lecture demonstrations, complete laboratories, work with computer simulations and solve problems with and without computers individually and in groups. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Students who miss in-class work without prior approval will not be given a chance to make up work. Students should read through each of the web-based class module before the associated class period.

### **Campus Syllabus:**

The campus syllabus applies to this class. You are encouraged to review the [campus syllabus](#).

### **Absences and make up work:**

Students are generally expected to attend class. If an absence is predictable in advance, the student should contact the instructor in advance by email and request that the absence be excused. If the absence could not be predicted in advance, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible afterwards to request that the absence be excused. Late work may be exempted from the grade in the case of an excused absence. The instructor will reply to let the student know if the absence is excused or if an extension is granted. Acceptable reasons for excused absences and late work include severe illness or injury, accidents/emergencies, unanticipated life events, and extraordinary professional or academic opportunities such as attendance of professional conferences. At the professor's discretion, doctor's notes, accident reports, police reports, and other relevant documentation may be required.

If class is canceled, it will be announced on Canvas.

### **Homework:**

Students must complete all homework assignments. Homework assignments are based on the material covered in class. They will be posted on Canvas. Students submit the assignments **on time**. No homework will be accepted after the solutions have been posted under any circumstances.

## Quizzes

There will be sporadic quizzes to make sure that you have done the the reading before class and are actively participating. These may either be on paper or online.

## Laboratories:

Students will complete several in-class laboratory exercises. Lab reports must be handed in **on time**.

## Exams:

There will be three in-class exams on February 26, March 26, and April 23. The final exam will be on May 2 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. In the case that permission is given for a student to reschedule the exam, the make up exam will be held on May 6 2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

## Grades:

The contribution to the overall grade will be:

- Midterm 1: 10%
- Midterm 2: 10%
- Midterm 3: 10%
- Final Exam: 10%
- Homework: 30%
- In class work, including labs: 30%

The grades will be determine according to the weighted average of the grades of each components with the final grades determined by the table below. The final grades may be curved up at the instructor's discretion. Final grades will not be curved down.

90% and above	A
87% - 89%	A-
83% - 86%	B+
80% - 82%	B
77% - 79%	B-
73% - 76%	C+
70% - 72%	C
67% - 69%	C-
63% - 66%	D+
60% - 62%	D
57% - 59%	D-

## Communication:

Emails to the instructor should have “Phys 250” in the subject. Students are expected to use their UTK email address for communication regarding the class and are expected to check their email regularly.

You are very strongly encouraged not to disable emails from Canvas. Questions of general interest should be directed to the discussion forum, not made via private emails to the instructor. Only questions particular to an individual student should be made via private emails to the instructor. Questions of general interest made via a private email to the instructor may not be answered.

**Discussion forum:**

All questions of *general interest* will only be answered on the discussion forum. This includes both questions about the material and questions about course logistics. Questions about grades or other private matters should be asked by email or in person.

**Academic honesty and expectations of clarity:**

Students are expected to be familiar with Hill Topics and the academic integrity policies. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled individually and the full range of sanctions allowed by university policy will be considered. Students are expected to report any suspected academic dishonesty to the instructor and *failure to do so is considered a violation of the student code of conduct*. Students are encouraged to work together and therefore expectations for this class are clarified in supplemental information available on Canvas. *When in doubt about how much group work is allowed, students are encouraged to ask for clarification in advance*. Students are responsible for making sure that their work meets expectations.