Physics 232 Laboratory Syllabus

Time

Day: Friday
Laboratory: 1:25pm-3:20pm
Location: Nielson Room 510

Instructor Information

Instructor: Bryant Walker Email: bwalke18@utk.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 11:15am-1:15pm (must make an appointment). If you cannot make this session and need to see me, please email me. You may email me at any time just make sure to include a subject with the lab you are in and include your name somewhere in the email.
Office Location: Nielson Room 609, Office number 609L
Tutorial Hours: Wednesday 1:25pm-2:25pm in tutorial room

Lab Manual

The laboratory manual that we will be using for Physics 232 is Contemporary Introductory Physics Experiments by James E. Parks, ISBN 978-0-7380-3083-8. This book is available at the UT book store and is a required text for this class. Must bring your lab manual to every lab session.

Policies and Guidelines

Attendance: You must attend every lab session because attendance makes up 15% of your final lab grade. This can be the difference in an A or B as your final grade. So make sure to attend every lab.

Late/Tardiness Policy: I will allow a 10 minute grace period after that you will be counted absent unless you have a good reason for being late like a taking a test or had a doctor’s appointment (will need documentation for tardiness like doctor’s note, note from teacher or TA that is proctoring).

Makeups: If you are not able to attend lab for some reason please inform me as soon as possible so we can see if we can get you to attend another session. I may require official documentation for repeated absences because there will be no makeups throughout the semester. If there are extenuating circumstances, contact me as soon as possible and we will try to work something out. In the event that a student failing to attend a lab session, she/he may take advantage of the makeup period on Monday, November 25, to complete the missed lab.

Participation: Participation will make up another 15% of your final grade. I want everyone participating and not just sitting around. Examples of not participating are if you are working on other class material, just being disruptive, or making one person do all the work, etc... You will not get a participation grade for that day.
Plagiarism: Everything you turn in must be your own work. Do not copy other people’s data or lab reports. Now on occasion we might have a group lab report, but you must do your own part in your group and have your name on the part you did. But do your own work! Plagiarism is a serious issue and will be treated just like cheating. If I catch you cheating or plagiarizing you will receive an automatic zero on that lab report. If it occurs more than once, I will take it up with your instructor who will take it up with the Dean of the school, which may lead to expulsion or other disciplinary action. Just don’t do it.

Disability Statement: If you need accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (Address: 2227 Dunford Hall, Telephone: 865-974-6087, Email: ods@utk.edu). Also please let me know and show me the documentation from Disability Services so I am in the loop of what is going on.

Grading

Lab Reports: 70%

Participation: 15%

Attendance: 15%

I will drop the lowest lab report grade at the end of the semester. This means you can miss one lab report without any penalty, but this does not mean to not come to class. I will do my best to get your lab reports back to you within a week of turning them in. To check your grades you may check them on blackboard.

Lab Schedule

Posted on the website of the Department of Physics and Astronomy under “Labs and Demos,” which may be updated during the semester. There are 12 lab sessions for this course and each lab will cover different material. The lab should not take more than 2 hours. There will be groups of 2 people. The webpage for the schedule is below:

http://www.phys.utk.edu/labs/Fall%202013%20P232%20Lab%20Schedule.pdf

Check this website often because there might be updates to the lab schedule.
Lab Report Guidelines

General Information

- Do not use bullet points. This is a lab report so it should look like one.
- Make sure your name and your partners name are on the front of the report.
- On the front also include the name of the experiment and the date the experiment was done.
- Lab reports should be 2 pages. No more. Any reports more or less will be subject to penalties.

Outline of Lab Report

I want the lab report set up in the order below. I want each lab section labelled before each section. For example above the introduction paragraph put Introduction as the title above that section.

Introduction:
This will consist of a clear statement about the scientific objective of the lab and a little on the theory behind it, including relevant equations, variables, and units.

Methods:
List materials and apparatus used in the lab. Do not quote the manual word for word. Explain in your own words what you did. Keep it short!

Results:
Present all relevant data, analysis, and graphs. You should label all the axis and make sure all the axis have the units included.

Analysis:
Discuss the meaning of your results. Does your data support the theory associated with the experiment? Why did you get the percent error you did? Discuss possible sources of error.

Conclusion:
Was your prediction about the outcomes correct? What concepts did you learn in the lab? Argue the significance of your results.