

# Physics 130, Fall 2016, Course Schedule

**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew M. Waite, Merion 133, ext: 2573, [mwaite@wcupa.edu](mailto:mwaite@wcupa.edu)

The best way to contact me is via e-mail. But, be aware that **I will only read and respond to e-mails written in proper English, with correct grammar, spelling, and etiquette.** Do not send me any e-mails addressed to “hey” written in text-speak like you’re talking to your roommate about meeting up at Barnaby’s tonight... I might meet up for happy hour, but I won’t answer any questions about class or homework!

**Class Meeting:** Lecture MWF 1-1:50 (SSL 151)

**Office Hours:** MWF 9-9:45, MTWF 11-11:45, F 9-11:45 or by appointment.

**Course Web Page:** [D2L](#)

WileyPLUS: [www.wileyplus.com/class/524051](http://www.wileyplus.com/class/524051)

Course information can be found here throughout the semester. D2L should be your first access point. If required, links to other sites will be posted on D2L. The syllabus, homework problem solutions, and other interesting links and resources can be found here. Check it regularly!!

**Course Goals & Student Outcomes:** Our goals are to explore, analyze, and investigate the world around us and to gain a better understanding of how and why various physical phenomena occur. In our study of these physical phenomena, we aim to use our mathematical tools to aid us in gaining not only a qualitative conceptual perspective, but to provide a quantitative applied understanding as well.

Course PHY170 is an approved course in the WCU General Education program. It is designed to help students meet the following general education goals:

**Gen Ed Goal 2: Ability to employ quantitative concepts and mathematical methods (Goal #2):** Virtually every topic discussed in the class will have a quantitative aspect that will require advanced mathematics (calculus). These methods will be employed during class examples, recitation quizzes, midterm exams, and laboratory sessions.

**Gen Ed Goal 3: Ability to think critically and analytically (Goal #3):** New concepts will be presented each week which build upon previously discussed material. The relationships and connections between the concepts will require students to think critically and analytically about the reason the physical phenomena occur and how they occur. Critical and analytical thinking are essential for applying these interconnected yet seemingly diverse concepts to efficiently solve homework and exam problems.

It should be noted that the pace of this course moves fairly quickly. If you note the schedule at the end of this syllabus, you will see that we cover approximately one chapter per week. The curriculum of this course is determined in such a manner that you should leave this course with a broad knowledge of a variety of physical phenomena, and a better understanding of how to view and approach physical problems. This is the reason most of you have been required by your majors to take this class. It is expected by the powers that be in your majors that we

cover **all** of these topics and that you are exposed to **all** of these topics by the time you finish this course. Thus, **this quick pace is necessary** in order to cover the required course material and topics within the space of one semester. It is in your best interest to keep up to speed by **reading the sections in the text indicated in the schedule before you get to class**. In fact, there might even be a short quiz at the beginning of some classes to see if you have been keeping up with your reading.

**Text:** Cutnell & Johnson's Physics, (10th Ed.) by Young & Stadler

<b><u>Grading:</u></b>	3 exams (13% each)	39%	(4 exams, but I drop the lowest)
	Cumulative Final	20%	
	Homework	20%	
	Laboratory	20%	
	Other	1%	(Attendance, participation, "boost" if needed based on these things.)

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend every class period, period.

Excused absences are limited to University-Sanctioned Events (which follow the Excused Absence Policy for University-Sanctioned Events as described in the West Chester University Undergraduate Catalog), and absences due to serious illness or injury (verified by a practicing MD, you must provide me with a phone number), or the death of family members (also to be verified.)

Cell phones and texting are NOT ALLOWED during class. Cell phone use is disruptive to your classmates and to your instructors. Please turn off your phones or put them on **silence**, tuck them away in your bookbag, purse or European carry-all, and forget about them until after class. If I see anyone texting or using their cell phones during class, I will take 5 points off of the nearest exam grade (that's 5 full points out of 100), and you will be considered "absent" for that day, since you are obviously not mentally present.

**Exams:**

There will be four hourly exams throughout the semester. These hourly exams will focus on the most recently covered lecture and class material, but they should be considered cumulative in the sense that we will be building upon what we have already learned throughout the semester. I DO NOT give make up exams. If you miss an exam for ANY REASON<sup>1</sup>, that will be your dropped exam. Only under *very special* circumstances<sup>2</sup> will there be any change to this

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<sup>1</sup> Including, but not limited to, University Sanctioned Events. These types of conflicts are the REASON for the dropped exam policy, thus they are not to be considered exemptions to this policy.

<sup>2</sup> As determined by Dr. Matthew M. Waite only.

policy, and in those cases, exceptions will be made ONLY when I am notified **prior to the scheduled exam** time of a conflict. Do not come to me after the exam asking for a make up, that will absolutely not be permitted. If you have ANY questions or concerns about this particular point, please come take to me and get clarification BEFORE it's too late!

### **Laboratory:**

Just about each week, you will have a laboratory exercise. You will have 2 hours of class period during which you are to get started on the experiment. I will be present during this time to answer any questions you might have and to make sure you get started correctly. If you do not finish the exercise in the allotted time, you are to complete the lab exercise by the following class period. Again, you may come ask me questions during my office hours throughout the week, but you are EXPECTED to stay during your scheduled lab time. If you finish the lab early (which won't happen often) you may spend the rest of the time experimenting with the electronics simulation software. The schedule of labs is included on the schedule that follows at the end of this syllabus.

### **Homework:**

Homework assignments will be complete using the online WileyPLUS course supplement. A link to this site is on D2L and the webpage listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Homework assignments are due by 8:00 pm on the due date. At 8:00 pm, the site will no longer accept homework submissions. I cannot change this. So PLEASE don't ask for an extension. As much as I want to grant it (and I really do most times, really, honestly, not kidding you) I cannot change the WileyPLUS program to allow it! I will, however, drop the lowest homework grade. So, if you miss one assignment, or even two, it's not going to affect your grade drastically. But, note that homework amounts to 20% of your total grade, as much as any single exam. Even if you get 100% on all exams, labs and the final... **you cannot get an A, and will be hard-pressed to get a B, without doing your homework assignments!** They are considered part of the course, and exams are written and administered with the understanding that you have worked on the homework assignments.

I encourage you to discuss the homework problems together, and to work and learn together, but every student will have different problems on WileyPLUS, and exams will be written with the understanding that YOU have done your own homework and know how to do all those problems. It is in your best interest to learn how to do the problems yourself.

### **University Policies:**

For questions regarding Academic Dishonesty, the No-Grade Policy, Sexual Harassment, or the Student Code of Conduct, students are encouraged to refer to their major department's handbook, the Undergraduate Course Catalogue, the Rams Eye View, or the University Web Site. Please understand that improper conduct in any of these areas will not be tolerated and may result in immediate ejection from the class.

**Disability:**

We at West Chester University wish to make accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please make your needs known by contacting the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at ext. 3217 **and** me at the above listed contact information. Sufficient notice is needed in order to make the accommodations possible. The University and I desire to comply with the ADA of 1990.

**Miscellaneous:**

Please make any restroom visits before the class starts, or wait until it ends, the class is only 50 minutes. It is distracting to both the instructor as well as your fellow students when someone gets up and walks out of the classroom during lecture. Only in very rare circumstances will permanent physical damage be done by waiting a few more minutes for class to end... In fact, many doctors claim that waiting up to 2-3 hours is no problem (except for a bit of discomfort) at all. Tell you what, if I go off on a tangent and babble on and on for 2-3 hours, I'll let you get up and take a break... promise.

**Schedule:** (See attached page, or page on D2L)