Math prerequisite: math requirement for UW admission (high school algebra/trig)

Materials:

- Basic scientific calculator

Lectures: 2:25 MWF in 2241 Chamberlin Hall

Read the chapter before the lecture! I know that sounds ridiculous, but it really helps the discussion and comprehension of ideas in lecture. I don't think about physics exactly the same way Hobson does, and it benefits you to see his take on things before you see my take on them. Hopefully you'll come to lecture with some questions in mind!

Discussion: 3:30 Monday (after lecture) in 2116 Chamberlin Hall

The discussion is optional, but highly recommended. We'll break into groups to work on homework, discuss ideas on the board, and I may bring in some demos once in a while. We'll go into more depth on topics of interest (how does a plasma TV really work?) if folks want to. Since homework is due before lecture on Wednesdays, the Monday discussion is a good place to get started on it. Students that attend the discussion section generally do better on homework and exams and wind up with a higher course grade.

Homework

Homework problems are assigned each week and are due the following Wednesday at the beginning of lecture. Late homework is not accepted. Ideally, you'll spend a little time over the weekend looking it over, and come to discussion on Monday with questions in mind. You are strongly encouraged to work on homework with other students, but be sure you understand the answers that you provide. I'll upload my solutions to the course website. Homework contributes 15% to your final grade.

Exams

There are four equally-weighted exams given in lecture, except the last given at the final exam time and location:

- Wednesday, September 21
- Wednesday, October 26
- Wednesday, November 23 (?? day before Thanksgiving)
- Thursday, December 22, 10:05AM location TBD

Each test contributes 15% to your final grade.

Term Project

Another 15% of your final grade comes from your term project, which is due in class on Wednesday, December 15. The format is wide open – I want you to do something creative having to do with modern physics. It could
be a paper, an experiment, a demo that you build and present to the class, a video, lots of things. You must have your topic/plan approved by me before you get started. Start thinking about your term project on day 1, and have a proposal to me by Friday, November 18. Earlier is preferred!

**Grading**

Your grade for the course is calculated as follows:

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Since the exams can vary a lot in difficulty, I'll convert raw scores to a letter grade. The term project will be a letter grade. Homework will be graded on an absolute scale. Participation is mostly lecture participation – asking questions, being engaged. Don't be surprised if I ask who you are. And by the way – the more all of you participate in lecture, the smarter I'll think you are, and the more generous I'll be in grading the class as a whole. Seriously.