

FAQ

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1 When and where is class?

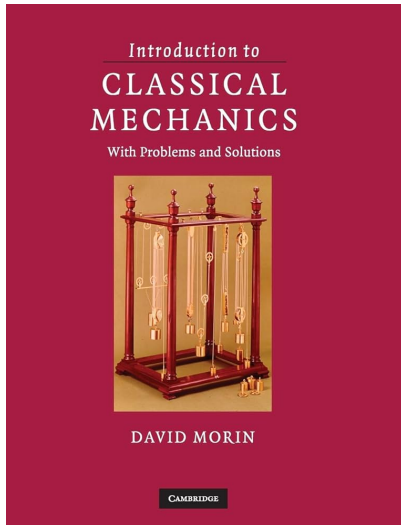
- When: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2:40PM-4:00PM

- Where: Dana 204

2 Where do I get my textbook?

The textbook for this class is “Introduction to Classical Mechanics” by David Morin (Cambridge University Press). The library should have copies available, but you can also purchase it at the Bates bookstore.

To find the library copies, go to librarysearch.bates.edu and search for the course number or my name. Write down the book’s call number and ask for it at the library.



3 When are your office hours?

Office hours:

- Tuesdays 1:30-2:30PM
- Wednesdays 4PM-5PM

You can also make a one-on-one meeting in calendly (see Lyceum for the scheduling link). If you schedule a one-on-one meeting, it will be in my office. The location of my office and the classroom for office hours are both in Lyceum.

4 Should I go to office hours?

Office hours are my open hours, when I have specifically set aside time to talk to my students (that's you!). Please always feel free to come by. You can ask questions about homework, concepts from class, projects, careers in physics, navigating the major, or anything else you want to ask. I will prioritize questions about course content, but I'm always happy to talk about other questions you might have.

5 Where do I find assignment instructions/course handouts/slides?

I created this website to make the syllabus and basic questions about the course easy, but not everything will be here. Handouts, in-class activities, specific assignments, and class notes will all be in the course page on Lyceum.

If you are enrolled in the class but do not have access to Lyceum, please let me know immediately so I can add you.

6 When is ___ due?

You can find all due dates on the [course schedule](#). Dates are subject to change, but will always be kept up to date on the schedule so check back if you're not sure.

7 Can I have an extension?

In general, I am happy to work with you on deadlines, but it's important for you to communicate with me. You can request extensions using [this form](#).

Please note that the 48 hour extension is automatically granted for eligible assignments, while anything longer than that requires that we have a conversation. That conversation starts by you proposing a new deadline in the form, and then I can talk to you about what's possible or reasonable given the course schedule, your circumstances, and other factors that may vary as the semester progresses.

Some assignments cannot be extended, and you can learn more about that by reading more about the [specific assignments](#).

For more on my deadlines and extension policy, see the [syllabus](#).

8 Can I re-do something I did poorly on?

Unit tests, group unit summaries, and homeworks can all be revised (or retaken, in the case of the tests) once. Community engagement grades and PCQs/exit slips can't be re-done, but I do look for consistent improvement and take that into account with the growth round-up. I also am happy to talk to you about these grades if there are extenuating circumstances. If you think this applies to you, schedule a one-on-one meeting with me on calendly and we can talk about what is possible and reasonable.

9 When will you reply to my email?

Timely communication is really important, but in order to be an effective instructor and a well-adjusted human, I also need to be able to take breaks from email.

If you email me on a weekday, you can expect a response from me within 48 hours. If you email me on a weekend or a holiday, you can expect a response from me by class time on the first day back.

10 Do you grade on a curve?

Grades are not curved; your grade depends only on your own performance. Supporting your fellow students will help every one of you, and I hope you will work together!

11 Can I use ChatGPT in this class?

Large Language Models (LLMs) are likely here to stay. Banning them from the classroom is both pointless and actively unhelpful. If you are going to use ChatGPT or a similar LLM in this class, I only require two things:

1. That you do a little reading on Large Language Models. Specifically, read [this article about how LLMs actually work](#) and [this article about the ethical considerations around LLMs](#)
2. That you consider ChatGPT - or any other LLM -a source that you must cite. If you an LLM to help with any assignment, you **must** acknowledge that help and give a short (one-sentence) description of what the LLM did for you and how it helped you solve the problem.

Remember that LLMs are designed to predict the most probable response to a question, which is not always the best or even correct response. They are prone to “hallucinating” (making stuff up, often in a way that is convincing but still false). They can’t do creative problem solving, which is the most important skill we are teaching in this class.

12 What should I do if I get behind on my work?

First, reach out to me. It helps me to know that you are working on catching up. I am also happy to meet and help you set adjusted deadlines to get back on track.

Second, if you are feeling really overwhelmed, consider scheduling an appointment with [a learning strategies tutor](#) at the Student Academic Support Center. Their role is to support students seeking help with time management, organization, reading, test-taking, note-taking, and other academic skills. They can help you talk through what strategies work for you, what strategies don’t, and how to manage your time and energy in a more sustainable way.

13 I have academic accommodations. What should I do?

I have tried to bring the concept of [universal design](#) into how I have planned and structured this course, so I hope that any accommodations you have are already built into this course (aside from extra time on tests, which can’t be accommodated during class times, but you can take the tests through [Accessible Education and Student Support](#)). However, I don’t expect to have done this perfectly (as there is no such thing), so if you have need of certain accommodations that are not already provided by this class, please let me know and I will do my best to meet those needs.

14 What if I need more support in this class?

The Student Academic Support Center (SASC) has lots of tutors who can help you strengthen your math skills, problem solving skills, and study skills. Please reach out to them to see how they can help, in addition to coming to my office hours, where I am more than happy to walk through problems with you.