

Computational Physics / PHYS-UA 210

This course teaches computational physics at a level appropriate for undergraduate physics majors. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday 12:30am to 1:45pm, in 12 Waverly Place, L113. The textbook is *Computational Physics*, by Rubin Landau. I will also ask you sometimes to look online at the Python Data Science Handbook (PDSH) by Jake Van Der Plas.

Prof. Blanton's office is Room 941 of 726 Broadway, and his email is blanton@nyu.edu. Office hours are Wednesday 2:00pm to 3:15pm.

The teaching assistant is Shengqi Yang (sy1823@nyu.edu). Recitation is Wednesday 5:00pm to 6:15pm. This time will primarily consist in working on homework assignments.

The class will be participatory. Please read the assignments before attending class; you will be expected at certain points to follow along with calculations on your computer.

There will be no exams in this course, but there will be a pretty heavy load of assignments:

- You will complete weekly homeworks until the beginning of November, and a final one due the last week of classes. You may consult with each other about the homeworks, but you must write your own individual code and report. This report will be in the form of rendered Jupyter notebooks or Latex documents, submitted to Yang in a manner she prescribes.
- The second major assignment is a large-ish project performed in groups of two students each, culminating in a presentation in November or December. You will hand in a report written using Latex, a standard format for physics research that you might as well become familiar with (the homeworks will introduce this format). A draft report will be due by November 17.

Grades are based on problem sets (65%), a project with results presented to the class (25%), and class participation (10%).

The classes will proceed as follows (subject to revision!). The problem sets will be due on each Friday of the indicated weeks.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Problem Sets</i>
2017-09-05 (T)	Numbers on computers	Ch. 1 & 2	
2017-09-07 (R)	Arrays	PDSH, Ch. 1 & 2	
2017-09-12 (T)	Numerics	Ch. 3	
2017-09-14 (R)	Numerics	Ch. 3	PS#1
2017-09-19 (T)	Random Numbers	Ch. 4	
2017-09-21 (R)	Random Numbers	Ch. 4	PS#2
2017-09-26 (T)	Differentiation	Ch. 5	Teams declared
2017-09-28 (R)	Integration	Ch. 5	PS#3
2017-10-03 (T)	Integration	Ch. 5	
2017-10-05 (R)	Integration	Ch. 6	PS#4
2017-10-10 (T)	Linear Algebra	Ch. 6	
2017-10-12 (R)	Linear Algebra	Ch. 6	PS#5
2017-10-17 (T)	Eigensystems	—	
2017-10-19 (R)	Eigensystems	—	PS#6
2017-10-24 (T)	Root-finding	Ch. 7	
2017-10-26 (R)	Minimization	Ch. 7	PS#7
2017-10-31 (T)	Ordinary DEs	Ch. 8	
2017-11-02 (R)	Ordinary DEs	Ch. 8	PS#8
2017-11-07 (T)	Fourier Analysis	Ch. 12	
2017-11-09 (R)	Fourier Analysis	Ch. 12	—
2017-11-14 (T)	Partial DEs	Ch. 19	Presentations begin
2017-11-16 (R)	Partial DEs	Ch. 19	Draft report due
2017-11-21 (T)	Partial DEs	Ch. 11	
2017-11-23 (R)	Thanksgiving, no class		
2017-11-28 (T)	Diffusion	Ch. 20	
2017-11-30 (R)	Nonlinear dynamics	Ch. 15	
2017-12-05 (T)	<i>Guest lecture on fluids</i>	—	
2017-12-07 (R)	<i>Guest lecture on N-body gravity</i>	—	
2017-12-12 (T)	Legislative Day, no class		
2017-12-14 (R)	Parallel computing	—	Final report due