**Physics 201 – Remote classes, homework, tests, exams, and all that!**

Hello everyone!

I hope that you are all safe and well. This has certainly been an interesting couple of weeks, and unlike anything I have ever experienced. With that said, as you know CNU has gone to online classes for the rest of the semester, and while that is certainly not ideal from my point of view, we will do our best, and we will get through this.

Before I talk about technical details, I want to make it very clear to everyone that the key word going forward here, in my opinion, is flexibility. I completely understand that this is not a normal situation, and so we are just going to have to take things day by day and week by week. In particular, this is going to affect the amount of material that we will cover in the course, surely, and it will also affect the assessment mechanisms. I want you to rest assured that I am going to be diligent in making sure that the grading for the course is done fairly and is in no way punitive to any of you. So, with that out of the way, let’s talk about how we can move forward in a positive way!

**Online classes:**

As you all know, CNU uses Scholar/Blackboard for its student content management system. While I have not used Scholar for this course, I have recently opened up the class shell so that you should now see Physics 201 among your list of courses on Scholar. The main reason that I did this is because I plan to use the **Blackboard Collaborate Ultra** platform for online classes. I will provide more detailed instructions on how this will work from your side in a separate message, but it should be pretty straight-forward.

The current plan is to have class together online at the usual class times – MWF 10:00am-10:50am. I really hope to try to make the classes as similar to the in-person experience as possible in terms of format and approach. We will introduce some new material as necessary, but will spend a lot of time going over homework problems.

**Homework:**

We will continue to use WebAssign, as we have been doing all semester! It is actually really great that we have been using this system all along, so at least that is one less thing to worry about.

**Tests and Final Exam:**

Again, we will use WebAssign to carry out the second test and final exam. I have done this before with other classes, and it works really well. I will talk a lot more about this when we meet online next week, but again, I want you to try to not worry about it too much because I have experience with doing things this way in the past, and from that experience I can tell you that it is actually a lot LESS pressure for students than doing in-class tests and exams.

Once again, all of us at CNU care very much about your safety, health, and success. We will get through this together!

If you have any questions at all for me about any of this, please do contact me via email, and we will work it out!

Best Regards,

Dr. Brash