

Additional Information on Grading Policies

Physics

In addition to what is outlined in the course syllabus, students and parents should understand the following specific goals and policies regarding student work in physics.

Homework:

In this class, the primary purpose of homework is not to practice an already-learned skill. Instead, homework should be used as a learning tool. Therefore, homework will not be graded for accuracy or even completion on a regular basis. However, there will be quizzes based on the homework – and generally, students find that their overall grades are higher when they do their homework.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given once every week or two and upcoming quizzes may or may not be announced. Quizzes will be closed-note and will usually be comparable to a homework problem that was assigned during the previous week. Quizzes will be carefully graded for accuracy and all work should be shown for full credit. For some quizzes, designated as “homework quizzes”, you will be permitted to have your homework out as a reference. These quizzes are designed to more closely resemble a homework problem and will serve as a check that you are doing your homework on a regular basis. Homework quizzes will always cover homework that has been reviewed in class; assignments that have not yet been reviewed will not be used for a homework quiz.

There will be no re-takes for quizzes.

Labs and Activities:

Labs will be graded based on clear documented evidence of thoughtful learning. Accuracy in measurements and calculations will be weighted less heavily than indications of careful consideration of the data collected and computed. Students are encouraged to collaborate with each other and with the instructor in order to master the lab objectives; however, lab reports should be done individually and be unambiguously unique.

For the highest possible score on labs and activities, it is critical that you use your class time well and check in with me frequently to make sure they are approaching the assignments in a way that will earn them the maximum possible credit.

Labs and activities may not be redone or resubmitted.

Tests:

Tests will be graded for accuracy of process and completeness of the work shown. Students do not need to get an answer right in order to get the majority of the points for that question; computational errors will decrease scores by a relatively small amount. The tests will be designed to closely resemble both the homework questions (including study guides) and lab

activities. Students will be able to use a sheet of notes as an aid for tests. Students who want to do well on the tests should have a strong mastery of all the learning objectives for the unit and should be able to clearly demonstrate the ability to solve a variety of different types of problems.

There will be no re-takes on tests. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence (whether pre-arranged or otherwise) will not be permitted to use a sheet of notes and may be given a different test form. Missed tests must be made up within one week of the original test date. Unexcused absences will result in a score of zero.