

Physics 40C Fall 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION SYLLABUS

Logistics

SI LEADER: Stephen Iota
CONTACT: siota001@ucr.edu
WEBPAGE: <https://stepheniota.github.io/physics-40c-f18>
SI SESSIONS: M 12 – 1 pm Skye 112; TR 12 – 1 pm Skye 108
LECTURE: Dr. Laura Sales; TR 3:40 – 5:00 pm Physics 2000

What is Supplemental Instruction?

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a free (!) academic support program that is designed to help students succeed in traditionally difficult courses. SI is held in a series of sessions throughout the quarter that are designed to review material in addition to lectures and discussions. Led by peer mentors, SI sessions combine “what to learn” with “how to learn,” and promote an active learning environment all in a small class setting. This gives students a unique learning experience that is more dynamic than the traditional (and boring) powerpoint slides lecture. It has been statistically shown that students who consistently participate in SI sessions receive **higher course grades and have higher graduation rates** vs. those who never attend.¹

Session Goals

Beyond the course material goals, the main goal of the PHYS040C SI sessions to have students start to *think like physicists*. In the SI sessions, [1] critical thinking, [2] problem solving and [3] fundamental concepts will be emphasized, in the hope of helping students not only in this specific class, but throughout their schooling and careers.

Grades & Participation

SI is not a graded course. PHYS040C SI sessions are all open, which means attendance is entirely optional, but *highly* recommended! Students are encouraged to actively participate in order to learn and solidify course concepts.

Guidelines

We ask that students respect the classroom guidelines, as well as the SI Leader. This means: [1] always sign in before sessions, [2] no food or drink in classrooms, [3] no cell phone use during sessions and [4] no foul language or abusive behavior. No hate speech will be tolerated and those guilty will be reported to the SI supervisor immediately.

I look forward to a great quarter with everyone! Feel free to contact me with any questions, I am here as an extra resource to help you succeed in Physics!

¹Erin M. Buchanan, Kathrene D. Valentine & Michael L. Frizell (2018) Supplemental Instruction: Understanding Academic Assistance in Underrepresented Groups, The Journal of Experimental Education, DOI: 10.1080/00220973.2017.1421517