

# Physics 40A Winter 2019

## SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION SYLLABUS

### Logistics

SI LEADER: Stephen Iota  
CONTACT: [siota001@ucr.edu](mailto:siota001@ucr.edu)  
WEBPAGE: <https://stepheniota.com/physics-40a-w19>  
SI SESSIONS: MW 4 – 5 pm or MW 5 – 6 pm in Skye 110  
LECTURE: Prof. John Ellison; TR 12:40 – 2:00 pm in 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. Taught by a peer mentor, SI focuses on reviewing material in addition to lectures and discussions, combining “what to learn” with “how to learn.” 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.<sup>1</sup>

### Session Goals

Physics 40A is one of the first “applied” math courses many of you will take. This class serves as the first stepping stone in a STEM career, where you will either use math to describe the world (physics) or use math to make things (engineering). The main goal of my SI sessions is to have you start to *think like a scientist or engineer*. We will focus on critical thinking skills and problem solving techniques that will prove invaluable throughout your careers in STEM.

Additionally, I will emphasize ‘soft skills’ such as public speaking and science communication. These skills are sometimes overlooked, but can be crucial in excelling in internships and landing top jobs.

### Grades & Participation

SI is not a graded course. However, as members of a BCOE Learning Community, you are required to attend SI sessions. I can assure you that if you participate, you will get something useful out of SI!

### Guidelines

Please respect one another and the classroom guidelines. 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.

### Final Remarks

I look forward to a great quarter with all of you! My main purpose here as an SI is to be a resource for you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have, be them physics related or not!

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<sup>1</sup>Erin 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