
Advanced Placement C: Course Outline

Dr. Timothy M. Leung ¹

Class Time

The Advanced Placement C course at Olympiads School runs for a total of 40 hours, on Saturdays & Sundays from 7:00–9:30pm

Course Pre-requisites

When taking the Advanced Placement C course, you should be comfortable and competent in the material covered in:

- **Physics 11 and 12:** Student will need to be competent in all the topics covered in the high-school level courses. Many topics from Physics 11 and 12 are covered more in-depth in this course.
- **Calculus:** Both C exams (Mechanics, and E&M) are calculus based, and students will be required to perform basic differentiation and integration.
- **Vectors:** Students need to have basic understanding of vector operations, including addition and subtraction, as well as dot products and cross products.

Course Outline

The course is divided into two parts, and covers all the topics in the two calculus-based C exams in depth:

- Mechanics
 1. Kinematics
 2. Dynamics
 3. Work and energy
 4. Momentum and collisions
 5. Center of mass
 6. General circular motion and angular momentum
 7. Harmonic motion (oscillations)
 8. Universal gravitation and planetary motion
 9. **Practice AP Physics C: Mechanics exam**
- Electricity and Magnetism (“E&M”)
 10. Electrostatics

¹Ph.D., M.A.Sc. (Toronto), B.A.Sc. (British Columbia), E-mail: tleung@olympiadsmail.ca

11. Capacitance
12. Magnetism
13. Inductance
14. Circuit analysis (RC, RL, LC and RLC circuits)
15. Maxwell's equations and electromagnetic wave
16. **Practice AP Physics C: E&M exam**

Course Material

- No textbook is required, however, lecture slides, handouts and any additional resources are posted on the school website each week (please check and download)
- Homework questions are generally based on university-level textbook problems, and past AP C exams
- Students are expected to bring the following to each class:
 - A pen/pencil for note-taking
 - Paper/notebook/binder
 - A scientific calculator for working in-class example problems

Classroom Expectations

Students attending this course will be expected to:

- Be in your seat and ready to learn and participate during class
- Stay on task without disturbing or distracting others
- Raise your hand if you have any questions or comments and wait to be called. Don't wait too long before you ask a question
- If you need to leave the class early, your parent needs to pick you up at the classroom door
- Be respectful for yourself, others, and the facilities; act in a responsible manner in everything you do

Homework Expectation

- Homework is assigned after every topic is finished (approximately every week during the fall/winter session, and twice a week during the summer), depending on the length and difficulty of the material for that topic
- The homework, like the AP exams, will include both multiple-choice questions and free-response questions
- Late homework is always accepted. However, the longer you wait, the less impact it will have on your learning
- For free-response questions:
 - Show *all* work by providing complete and organized steps. In AP exams, only part marks are awarded for the correct answer; and most of the marks are for showing the correct work. Hint: An-

answer all questions as if the reader is learning the concept from you, not as if s/he already understands it.

- If a question requires you to *explain*, please do so using short complete sentences with supporting detail.
- Proper math format must be used, e.g. proper use of “=” sign, units, etc.
- Circle or box all your final answers.
- Some of the more difficult questions will be taken up during class. However, this does *not* mean you don’t need to do your homework at home. Always do your best.

Notes

To make sure that students are comfortable with the standard format of the AP exams all effort have been made to ensure that

- Whenever possible, the course material uses American spelling (e.g. meter instead of *metre*, color instead of *colour*)
- The homework questions are formatted to look like the actual AP exams