PHYSICS 211 RECITATION INFORMATION

- **General**
  - In order for the recitation to be useful and effective, you are expected to come to recitation prepared. Specifically, this means that you have attended lecture, done the textbook reading, and looked at homework that has been assigned recently. You will be working in groups, and if you have fallen too far behind you are hindering both yourself and your groupmates.
  - To make the most of our time together in recitation, you are encouraged to ask any questions that you have regarding things covered in lecture, reading assignments, homework assignments, etc. Asking informed questions is essential to the goals we have set for you in this course; the ability to reason physically is a process of inquiry, and being able to ask good questions is, if anything, more important than knowing all of their answers.
  - Out of respect for your classmates and the course as a whole, students are expected to be punctual (see section Attendance). Recitation will start at the time posted.
  - The use of electronic devices (computers, laptops, tablets) is in general not allowed, with the exception that you may use them to refer to course material.
- **Attendance and Participation**
  - Attendance and participation are graded (10% of your final grade). A sign in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of recitation. At the TA's discretion, students arriving late may not receive credit for attendance.
  - You are expected to participate actively in recitation activities. These include but are not limited to: class discussions, group work, and presentations. Students who are blatantly not participating will not receive credit for attendance.
  - Before every exam, you will work on a preliminary exam in your groups. These preliminaries serve both as practice exams for the in-class test and as group examinations, and together they will comprise an additional 10% of your final grade.
- **Homework**
  - Homework is due at the beginning of recitation. If your TA instructs you to submit homework to their mailbox, you may do so, but do not do this without prior permission. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning your homework in on time, contact your TA **well in advance** of the due date to request an extension, which will be granted at their discretion. Late homework without prior arrangement will only be accepted in emergency situations.

- If you must be absent from recitation, contact your TA **in advance** to arrange to submit your homework.
- You are encoraged to collaborate with your peers on your homework. However, you must understand everything you turn in. Work that is so similar to another student's that it reflects wholesale copying, rather than collaboration, amounts to "substituting someone else's understanding for your own", and will be treated as a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity.
- Homework submissions *should not* consist only of algebra without accompanying diagrams and discussion. This is not a mathematics class; do not simply submit mathematics. Your solution to homework problems should be a short narrative, explaining your complete thought process leading from the problem to the solution using words, pictures, algebra, and numbers where appropriate. **Words and diagrams are just as important as symbols and numbers.**
- **Any solution with numbers substituted for algebraic expressions prematurely will lose up to half credit.** This may seem harsh, but it is considerably simpler – and far more illuminating! – to substitute in numbers only as the very last step of a problem, unless there is specific physical insight to be gained by numerically evaluating expressions sooner. In general, unless you are prepared to *interpret* a numerical value, rather than simply compute it, leave it as an algebraic expression. This point will be illustrated in class and further explained by your TA's.
- Any final answer bearing dimensions (a mass or a length, for instance) without units will be marked as incorrect.
- You are also expected to include units along with numerical dimensionful quantities in your calculations. This will prevent you from making certain sorts of mistakes: adding together a length and a mass, for instance. If you make this sort of mistake, *and* if you would have caught the mistake had you carried the units along with your numerical work, then you may lose credit for the entire problem. This may seem harsh, but this requirement is there to encourage good habits. This will be discussed further in class.
- If you have an objection to the grading of your homework, speak to your TA, as the grader, first. *Any student making a grade appeal must be prepared to solve the problem, without notes, on the blackboard.* If, after discussion with the TA, you still wish to appeal your grade, speak to Dr. Freeman.

- **Exam grade appeals**
  - If you believe that your exam grade is incorrect, speak to your recitation TA first. If they agree with you, they may fix the mistake. If they disagree with you, they may direct you to consult with Dr. Freeman.
  - If you are appealing the grading of an exam problem, you must be prepared to solve the problem on the blackboard.