

## PHYSICS 450 – ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

Spring Semester 2018 TR 9:00–10:15 WAT 114

Instructor: Eric B. Szarmes (szarmes@hawaii.edu; WAT 212)

Office hours: to be announced

**Course Description:** Historically, the most important consequence of Maxwell's investigations into electrodynamics was the understanding that light is a purely electromagnetic phenomenon. Having developed Maxwell's equations and explored various applications of electrodynamics in Phys 350, we focus our attention in Phys 450 on the nature and propagation of electromagnetic waves in vacuum and in media. We also explore general solutions to Maxwell's equations that reveal the rich physical content of these equations – that electromagnetic fields possess energy, linear momentum and angular momentum – and lastly, how electric and magnetic fields are not separate entities, but instead are fundamentally related through the four dimensional structure of space-time. The course thus includes a thorough introduction to the theory of relativity.

**Textbooks:** David J. Griffiths, *Introduction to Electrodynamics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Pearson Higher Ed., Boston, 2013  
(recommended: T. A. Moore, *Six Ideas That Shaped Physics*, UNIT R, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., McGraw Hill, 2003)

**Course website:** <https://lualima.hawaii.edu> → PHYS-450-001 [MAN.81446.SP18] → Resources

**Grade distribution:** Weekly Homework: 50%  
iClicker Questions: 5%  
Midterms/Quizzes: M1(10%) / M2(10%) / Q(10%)  
Final Examination: 15%

**HW Corrections:** Up until one week after any weekly problem set is returned to you, you may resubmit any corrected problem on that problem set for up to an additional 3 points per problem. Corrections must be done on the original problem set, either written directly on the original writeup in distinguishable ink (for small corrections) or on a separate page attached to the original problem set (for longer corrections) as needed. If you are not sure where you made your original error, or have trouble understanding anything about a problem for which you lost points, you may meet with me for a brief tutoring session to go over any questions you may have.

**Grade assignment:**

A+	90 >	B+	75–80	C+	60–65	C–	40–50
A	80–90	B	65–75	C	50–60	D/F	< 40

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### COURSE OUTLINE

Dates	Topics	Chapter
Jan 9–Feb 6	the wave equation; properties of waves; electromagnetic plane waves in free space and dielectric media; reflection at surfaces; electromagnetic waves in conductors; guided waves	Griff 9
Feb 8–Feb 20	energy, momentum and angular momentum in electric and magnetic fields; Poynting's theorem; Maxwell's stress tensor	Griff 8
Feb 13	<i>Midterm Examination #1 due Friday, Feb 16</i>	
Feb 22–Mar 6	potential theory; scalar and vector potentials; Coulomb and Lorentz gauges; retarded potentials; Lienard-Wiechert potentials; field of a moving charge	Griff 10
Mar 8–Mar 13	nature and origin of electromagnetic radiation; power radiated by a moving charge; radiation reaction	Griff 11
Mar 20	<i>Midterm Examination #2 due Friday, Mar 23</i>	
Mar 15–Apr 12	principle of relativity; clock synchronization; the nature of time; the metric equation; proper time; the Lorentz transformation; Lorentz contraction; the causal structure of spacetime; four-vectors; energy and momentum	Griff 12 (notes)
Apr 17–Apr 26	electrodynamics and relativity; transformation of electric and magnetic fields; the field tensor and relativistic potentials	Griff 12
May 1	<i>Problem Session and Review</i>	
May 7–11	<i>Final Examination</i>	