

Example syllabus

Course: <course>, Section <section>, <mechanics or E&M>, <semester>
Lab Schedule: <day>, <time>
TA: <name>
Email: <email address>
Office: WAT421
Office Hours: <day>, <time>
Website: <http://go.hawaii.edu/jh7>
Text: Harris, General Physics Laboratory I: Mechanics: Physics 151L and 170L, 2nd Ed.
(<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/general-physics-laboratory-i-mechanics-physics-151l-and-170l-ebook>)
or
Harris, General Physics Laboratory II: Electricity and Magnetism Optics: Physics 152L and 272L, 2nd Ed.
(<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/general-physics-laboratory-ii-electricity-and-magnetism-optics-physics-152l-and-272l-ebook>)

Student learning outcomes:

- To understand the importance of experiment as the basis of the scientific method.
- Better understand physics concepts covered in lecture by seeing their application in experiments.
- To obtain experience in the techniques employed by scientists in all fields for analyzing data and drawing conclusions from "real world" experiments.
- Report your result in a scientific fashion.

Preparation for the lab:

- Use two notebooks.
- On the book's front cover print your name, class, section, and name of your TA. Also write table of contents at the beginning of each book, and have the pages numbered prior to use.
- Use a pen for all reports and quizzes.
- Read the lab instructions for the upcoming lab and bring the lab manual to class.
- Bring a scientific calculator, ruler, and tape.
- Wear closed shoes.

What to expect:

- The class will start most times with a 10-15min quiz, potentially followed by a quick discussion of the answers.
- This is followed by a 30-45min lecture from the TA. It is expected that the students interact a lot and ask questions. This will help to be more efficient when conducting the lab and writing the lab report.
- For the remaining ~2h, the students will conduct the experiments in groups of two and start the data analysis. Students should pay close attention to the instructions of the TA and the lab manual. Careful experimenting will result in better data. If something is unclear the TA is ready to help.
- Every lab is 2:50h long. You are expected to be on time and you are expected to stay until the end of the lab and to not leave early. If you finish early work on the lab report.
- A new random group partner will be assigned every two weeks.

- Nobody should leave without the TA signing your data tables.

Format of Report:

The idea of the report is that you could go back to report in a few months and would be able to repeat the measurements without any further instructions by only using your own report.

- Start with writing the experiment's title and your partners' name/s.
- Structure:
 - **Objectives:** The purpose of the lab. The objective part should be very short; it should not be longer than two or three lines. Write it in your own words.
 - **Notes:** Write and explain any derivations of formulas you used in this experiments as well as assumptions we made to modify these formulas. These are not the lecture notes!
 - **Procedure:** Write in your own words each step of your experiment. Do not copy the procedure from the lab manual. Draw a sketch of any apparatus and label the different components used in this experiment.
 - **Data input:** Will include tables, graphs (Before printing any graph ask your TA to check the plot), and charts properly labeled with units. Please tape all extra papers to your notebook. The data should contain the information that was given and measured during the experiment (radii, current, voltage, resistance, etc.).
 - **Calculations:** Transform your data into results. **Do not erase.** Write the formulas you are going to use in your calculation, explain what is that formula for, and then use it. Write **units** for all physical quantities. Not using units results in a deduction of points for your lab report.
 - **Final Results:** Write all your final results as follows: result \pm uncertainty. Every measurement that you take has to be given with an error. Giving a measurement without the uncertainty has no physical meaning. Write **units** for all physical quantities. Not using units results in a deduction of points for your lab report.
 - **Discussion of errors:** Discuss the systematic and statistical errors involved in your experiment.
 - **Conclusion:** Write a conclusion in your own words. Explain whether the experiment fulfilled its objectives.
 - **Questions:** Answer the questions assigned at the beginning of every class.

Grades:

Lab reports:

- Each student is expected to perform all experiments. Please see the rules for make-up experiments below.
- The recorded data will be signed off by the TA. Data that was not signed off by the TA will not be accepted. Unsigned data tables will not be accepted in your report and potentially leads to 0points for the report (which is equivalent to missing one lab).
- Reports must be handed over to your TA at the beginning of each lab. (During or after lab will be considered as late). Working on previous lab reports in class is strictly prohibited.
- The lab reports make up 60% of the grade. If a lab report is not submitted the grade for the experiment is 0%.
- Penalties for late reports:

- 1 week – 15% off
- 2 weeks – The report will not be accepted → **results in one missed lab**

Quiz:

- A ten to fifteen minutes quiz will be given every time.
- It will contain about five questions from the current lab and the previous lab.
- Be prepared for those quizzes by reading the relevant chapters from your manual. The quizzes make up 40% of the grade.

Final grades will be curved over all sections. The typical outcome over all sections is approximately 25% A's, 40% B's, 35% C's and below. Every experiment carries the same weight for the grade calculation.

Cheating:

- No cheating and copying is allowed. This includes copying data from another student.
- The groups will collaborate to conduct the experiment and also to start the initial analysis in the lab room together. However, the final analysis at home has to be conducted individually.
- No collaboration for quizzes.
- A student who was caught cheating would be given a zero for that lab/quiz (may also lead to a direct fail of the course).

Being late:

- This lab has a strict late policy. Missing parts of the lecture can potentially result in safety hazards and damaging behavior to the equipment.
- It is within the discretion of the TA to decide if a late student will be allowed to conduct the experiment or fail the experiment.
- Generally, being late by more than 30min automatically results in a missed experiment. This lab has to be made-up if the late arrival was excused with a reasonable explanation. Without a reasonable explanation the lab cannot be made up and the student receives 0% for the experiment.

Missed Labs:

- To receive full credit, a student must inform (email or call) his/her TA before or immediately after the missed lab. The student is responsible for arranging for a make-up experiment. The TA will assist the student with this process. The TA is not responsible for contacting the student after a missed lab to schedule a make-up experiment.
- If the TA was not contacted on the same day and the student cannot produce a doctor's note or any other evidence the lab cannot be made up. In this case, the student receives 0% for the experiment.
- A total of **two** make-up experiments is allowed. Any further misses, will result in failing the course. Special circumstances requiring to soften this rule should be brought to the attention of the TA as soon as possible and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The lab will be either made up in the other section of the TA or with another TA.
- In case of scheduling conflicts, it is the student's responsibility to make time for the make-up experiment. It cannot be expected that the TA will conduct the experiment exclusively with the student on their own time. Special arrangements will be found for

- missing a lab in the last week of the semester.
- On a case-by-case basis, the TA will decide if she/he will provide a make-up quiz as well.
- Making-up of missed labs will be in the same week or by the following week. If a student is excused for a longer period special arrangements will be decided on a case-by-case basis. This should be brought to the attention of the TA as soon as possible.
- **Only one lab can be missed without making it up to be able to pass the class.** This will result in a 0% score for both quiz and report. A second lab that is missed and not made up (see rules for make-ups above) will result in failing the course.

Lab Schedule by Week:

<Please adapt order to your lab and group. Please consider labor day on 9/4. This lab will not be made up in the following.>

Mechanics

Group I starts in PSB 108

Group II starts in PSB 110

Week		Group 1	Group 2
8/28	9/1	Intro and discussion	Intro and discussion
9/4	9/8	Vectors	Vectors
9/11	9/15	Discussion: Errors	Discussion: Errors
9/18	9/22	Darts	Darts
9/25	9/29	Pendulum	Air Track
10/2	10/6	Air track	Pendulum
10/9	10/13	Energy transfer in collisions	Kinetic and potential energy
10/16	10/20	Kinetic and potential energy	Energy transfer in collisions
10/23	10/27	Rotational motion	Natural oscillations
10/30	11/3	Natural oscillations	Rotational motion
11/6	11/10	Driven oscillation	Spring of air
11/13	11/17	Liquid drag	Driven oscillation
11/20	11/24	Spring of air	Liquid drag

E&M

Group I starts in PSB 111

Group II starts in PSB 112

Week		Group 1	Group 2
8/28	9/1	Intro/LED	Intro/LED
9/4	9/8	Electric Field Mapping	Electric Deflection

9/11	9/15	Electric Deflection	Electric Field Mapping
9/18	9/22	Oscilloscope	DC circuit
9/25	9/29	DC circuit	Oscilloscope
10/2	10/6	Capacitors	Capacitors
10/9	10/13	Magnetic Field Mapping	Magnetic Deflection
10/16	10/20	Magnetic Deflection	Magnetic Field Mapping
10/23	10/27	Induction	Induction
10/30	11/3	Driven Oscillations	Natural Oscillations
11/6	11/10	Natural Oscillations	Driven Oscillations
11/13	11/17	Refraction of Light	Geometric Optics
11/20	11/24	Geometric Optics	Refraction of Light