

Phys 170A: Honors General Physics I

Spring semester 2026

- Instructor:** Prof. Peter Lewis (peter.mandeville.lewis@hawaii.edu)
- Classroom:** WAT 415
- Class hours:** MWF 9:30-10:20 am [lecture]
F 10:20-11:20 am [recitation]
- Office hours:** After recitation on Fridays (until 2pm) or by appointment. WAT 227.
- Pre/co-requisites:** MATH 242 or 252A, or 216 with instructor consent
- Textbook:** Young and Freedman: *University Physics, 15th edition*, chapters 1-16. This course will be participating in the Bookstore's *Interactive Digital Access Program (IDAP)*. Through this program, you will access your textbook and homework online.
- Homework:** Homework is on the Pearson Mastering Physics website. It will be assigned Fridays at 9:30am and due the following Friday at the same time. Late homework will be accepted with a deduction of 14% for every 24 hours late, rounded up (for example: one minute late is 14%, 24 hours + 1 minute late is 28%, etc). No homework will be accepted or graded after one week past the due date.
- Recitation:** Friday recitations will include problem-solving examples and small-group exercises. Grades for these exercises will be based on a set of standardized problem-solving steps that will be detailed in the first week.
- Grading:** The grading breakdown is as follows:
1. [30%] Homework
 2. [20%] Friday problems (done during recitations)
 3. [10%] Midterm 1: Chapters 1-4
 4. [10%] Midterm 2: Chapters 5-8
 5. [10%] Midterm 3: Chapters 9-12
 6. [10%] Midterm 4: Chapters 13-16 (first half of final exam)
 7. [10%] Comprehensive exam (second half of final exam)
- Course goals:** This is an *intensive* course designed specifically to set a strong and rigorous foundation for new physics majors. There is a very strong emphasis on problem solving techniques and deep, intuitive understanding.
- Learning outcomes:** You will understand how to apply Calculus principles and tools to basic physics problems in mechanics and waves/acoustics. You will develop problem-solving skills that will translate into upper-division major coursework.

Wk	Date	Lecture	HW	Reading
1	M Jan 12	CH1	0 →	CH1
	W Jan 14	CH1		
	F Jan 16	CH1 + recitation	0 ←, 1 →	
2	M Jan 19	No class: MLK Jr. Day		CH2
	W Jan 21	CH2		
	F Jan 23	CH2 + recitation	1 ←, 2 →	
3	M Jan 26	CH3		CH3
	W Jan 28	CH3		
	F Jan 30	CH3 + recitation	2 ←, 3 →	
4	M Feb 2	CH4		CH4
	W Feb 4	CH4		
	F Feb 6	Review CH 1-4 + recitation	3 ←, 4 →	
5	M Feb 9	Midterm 1		CH5
	W Feb 11	CH5		
	F Feb 13	CH5 + recitation	4 ←, 5 →	
6	M Feb 16	No class: President's Day		CH6
	W Feb 18	CH6		
	F Feb 20	CH6 + recitation	5 ←, 6 →	
7	M Feb 23	CH7		CH7
	W Feb 25	CH7		
	F Feb 27	CH7 + recitation	6 ←, 7 →	
8	M Mar 2	CH8		CH8
	W Mar 4	CH8		
	F Mar 6	Review CH 5-8 + recitation	7 ←, 8 →	
9	M Mar 9	Midterm 2		CH9
	W Mar 11	CH9		
	F Mar 13	CH9 + recitation	8 ←, 9 →	
(Spring Break)				
10	M Mar 23	CH10		CH10
	W Mar 25	CH10		
	F Mar 27	CH10 + recitation	9 ←, 10 →	
11	M Mar 30	CH11		CH11
	W Apr 1	CH11		
	F Apr 3	No class: Good Friday	10 ←, 11 →	
12	M Apr 6	CH12		CH12
	W Apr 8	CH12		
	F Apr 10	Review CH 9-12 + recitation	11 ←, 12 →	
13	M Apr 13	Midterm 3		CH13
	W Apr 15	CH13		
	F Apr 17	CH13 + recitation	12 ←, 13 →	
14	M Apr 20	CH13		CH14
	W Apr 22	CH14		
	F Apr 24	CH14 + recitation	13 ←, 14 →	
15	M Apr 27	CH15		CH15
	W Apr 29	CH15		
	F May 1	CH16 + recitation	14 ←, 15 →	
16	M May 4	CH16		CH16
	W May 6	Review	15 ←	
	F May 8	No class: study day		
	M May 11	9:45am FINAL EXAM: Chapters 1-16		