Physics 303L – Engineering Physics II

Fall 2008 – MWF 2-2:50pm, PAI 4.42

Unique numbers 60290, 60295, 60300, 60305

Instructor: Prof. H. L. Berk Office: RLM 11.326
Office hours: 3:15-4:15 pm M F or by appointment
Virtual Office Hours: The best way to reach me is by email, hberk@mail.utexas.edu
Web address: http://peaches.ph.utexas.edu/ifs/personalpages/berk.html

TA: Alex Hawk
Office hours: TBA. He can also be reached at ahawk@physics.utexas.edu

Course Materials
Quest: This course uses Quest, which administers assignments, grading, and scheduling. You should be currently enrolled in the system and you can access it at http://quest.cns.utexas.edu/student/courses/list The access requires authentication via UTEID. Then follow instructions to register.
Clicker: This class will use iClicker, a remote available at the Co-op.

Course Requirements
Prerequisites and Co-requisites will be checked by the Physics Department by the second week of class. Students who do not satisfy the official requirements for the course will be dropped usually by the 12th class day, unless they receive permission from the physics undergraduate adviser. From the Course Schedule, the following is required: “PREREQUISITE: PHY 303K AND 103M, AND CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OR CREDIT IN 408M; AND CREDIT OR REGISTRATION IN PHY 103N.” See Pat Morgan in the Physics Undergraduate Office (RLM 5.216) if you have any questions. The student with deficiencies will be notified.

Discussion Sessions: When you registered for this course you registered for a discussion session that meets one hour each week. Attendance is required and ‘snap quizzes’ will be given from time to time to determine your grade for this section of the course. Discussion sessions begin the week of Sept. 1.

Laboratory: PHY 103N: The physics lab is a separate course which is a co-requisite of PHY 303L. The labs will begin the week of Sept 8.

Assignments and Exams
Homework: Regular homework assignments will be turned in via the Web http://quest.cns.utexas.edu/student/courses/list. Then go to “my profile” where you register
your clicker (very important). Homework will be posted on the evenings (or next morning) after each class and due two evenings later (+ early morning) as the homework will be due by 4 am on the given due date (or before). Answers can be turned in any time after a homework assignment is available for download from the Web. Any exceptions to this schedule will be announced. Late homework will otherwise not be accepted. There will be seven drops of your lowest grades when averaging your homework score at the end of the term.

Synopsis: In preparation

Midterm-Exams: There will be four exams during the term. The dates have been changed from what may have been listed due to a conflict with the Chemistry Dept. We now plan exams on Friday evenings, 9/19, 10/17, 11/14, 12/5. The exam will take up to 2 hours. The time is not set, but we would like it as early as possible. Conflicts with other class or religious reasons will be considered in setting the time for the exam.

Final Examination: There will be a final exam (to be announced).

Grading Policy

Components of Your Course Grade:
- Homework 18%
- Mid-term exams 45%
- Final exam 30%
- Snap Quiz 3%
- Class Participation (with clickers) 4%

Attendance at lecture and discussion sessions is and lecture attendance is checked using the Clicker system, and will contribute to your grade as “class participation” assignments. We are required to report significant absences from class to your academic Dean, and typically will do so about the middle of the semester.

A separate grade for discussion sessions, based mainly on your snap quiz (see below), by your TA at the end of the semester.

Exams: Students are required to take all four exams during the term. At the end of the semester, the exam with the lowest scaled (i.e., curved) grade will be dropped. No make-up exams will be given.

Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive and mandatory. No matter what your previous grades are, if you earn a score of 90% or better on the final, you will receive an A in the course; 85% or better and you will receive at least a B and if your grade is 75% or better you will receive at least a C for the course. Your attendance at lectures will be used to determine the final grade of students who are just below a letter-grade cutoff at the end of the semester and hence attendance is potentially a very significant factor in determining your grade.

Snapquiz: The ‘snapquiz’ will be given at un-announced times during the discussion sections. It will consist of 1 or 2 questions that are based on past homework or past exams.

Other Resources and Suggestions
Coaching Service: In addition to instructor and TA office hours, the physics department supplies a service where physics graduate students are available on class days for free tutoring on the 5th floor of RLM (between the elevators and the Physics Department offices). The coaching schedule is posted on the bulletin board in that area.

Chit Sheets: In every exam (including final), you may bring to each midterm a “chit sheet” consisting of one sheet (two for the final exam) of 8 1/2 x 11 paper with anything you want hand-written on it (both sides). The idea is that by the time you have organized the covered material well enough to make a “quality” chit sheet, you will have it well organized in your mind as well. (Course summary sheets will not be handed out during any exam)

Study Suggestions: In the lectures, there is only time for highlights and examples to be given. Nevertheless, you are responsible for all assigned sections of the book even if they are not covered in class or on the homework. You are strongly suggested to read the material before class, and a second time afterward. Start working on your homework as soon as it is available and begin turning it in as soon as you have worked some of the problems. Get help immediately if you have trouble with the material. The importance of doing the homework assignments (and understanding them) cannot be overemphasized. Very few students get satisfactory grades who do not do well on their homework

Some Ground Rules for Class: In this class, common courtesy should be all we need to keep things running smoothly. A few specific guidelines:

• Please do not read a newspaper or talk to your neighbor during the lecture.
• Please remember to turn off all personal electronics before class. This includes computers, cell phones, ipods or other mp3 players, PDAs, etc.