



## Physics Course Syllabus (2019 - 2020)

### PHYSICS 1 COURSE DESCRIPTION

Physics is a year-long course, which examines motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, and light. The physics field ranges from the far reaches of the universe to the insides of atoms. This course covers not only the body of knowledge that we call physics but also stresses the history of and the ongoing research into the adventure we call science. The course emphasizes laboratory work and exploration by students, recognizing that we cannot present the entire body of scientific knowledge because there is too much to teach. We can hope for best results if we clearly present how science works and the processes and methods which expand scientific knowledge.



### GENERAL INFORMATION

Course: Physics  
Name of instructor: Wendy Chen  
Room number: B-24  
Website: [www.jfkphysics.com](http://www.jfkphysics.com)  
E-mail address: [wendy-chen@scusd.edu](mailto:wendy-chen@scusd.edu)  
Phone number: 916-395-5090 x:506124

### TEXTBOOKS

Publisher: McGraw-Hill/Glencoe (2004)  
ISBN-10: 0078458137

### MATERIALS NEEDED

binder/notebook, scientific calculator, pencils, erasers, and paper. Optional: ruler

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand what physics is and how it coordinates with other sciences.
2. Be aware of the history and evolution of scientific thoughts from Aristotle through contemporary physicists and theory.
3. Understand the scientific method, experimentation and be able to distinguish between hypothesis and theory. Students should be able
  1. to use some of the tools of physics for measurement and experimentation, and
  2. to devise experimentation to test a hypothesis.
4. Be able to apply concepts of science and physics to ordinary phenomena encountered in life.

### EXTRA HELP

Office hours are during lunch or after school. If you plan on stopping by after school for help, please be prompt or let me know ahead of time if you will be late.

### ABSENCES

It is your responsibility to check [www.jfkphysics.com](http://www.jfkphysics.com) or with the teacher **before or after school** for work missed. You have the number of days you are absent plus one day to make up the missing assignment. For example, if you are sick for two days, you have two days plus one day (three total) from the day you return to complete the missing work. If you have missed a lab, you must arrange a time with me to make up the lab as soon as you return, if you do not do this in a timely manner you will not be allowed to complete the lab and will be given a zero. Unfortunately, demos cannot be made up. Consult a peer if you missed out on an in-class demonstration.

## LATE WORK

Unless you have an excused absence, late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due at the time of collection. No exceptions. All assignments are posted on the class website.

## RESTROOM POLICY

Class time is precious, so please try to use the restroom during passing time. No restroom passes will be given the first 10 minutes, last five minutes of class, or during lecture. All students must use the bathroom pass when exiting the room.

## TARDIES

You are considered tardy if you are not sitting in your seat when the bell rings.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Allowing someone to copy your answers or copying someone else's answers is a serious offense that will result in a zero for the assignment. Talking during a test or quiz is prohibited and may also result in a zero.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework will be assigned in this course. Check the class website for upcoming due dates.

## GRADING POLICY

Categories	Weighted (%)	Grading Scale (%)	Letter Grade
Assessments	50	[90, 100]	A
Labs & Activities	20	[80, 90)	B
Final Exam	10	[70, 80)	C
Participation & Warm up	10	[60, 70)	D
Assignments	10	[0, 60)	F

***Reminder: Your grade in the class is determined by YOU. Teachers/instructors/professors do not "give" grades, we simply tally up the points. Active participation, learning, and engagement will result in higher grades. Lack of these will result in lower grades. This is because grades are a reflection of your participation in the class and the learning process. Remember this now, and in the future.***

## UNITS COVERED

Unit I: Motions and Forces

Unit II: Conservation of Energy and Momentum

Unit III: Heat and Thermodynamics

Unit IV: Waves and Optics

Unit V: Electric and Magnetic Phenomena

*(Investigation and Experimentation Standards are incorporated in Units I through V)*

## TIME

9 weeks

8 weeks

2 weeks

6 weeks

8 weeks

## COURSE ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

The physics course covers physics concepts, applications of mathematics to scientific principles and laboratory work. Assessment needs to evaluate student progress in all these areas. Methods of assessment include:

1. Pre-laboratory and laboratory write-ups.
2. Performance assessment in the laboratory
  - (informally) observing student activities during laboratory investigations.
  - (formally) assessing with practical exams on specific laboratory procedures.
3. Assessments will include essay and short answer questions on concepts as well as mathematical applications.
4. Projects that demonstrate the use of physics principles in practical applications.
6. Portfolios that contain a diverse sampling of the student's best work for the year.

## **LABORATORY RULES**

For safety purposes, all lab equipment should be used according to directions. Items are expensive to replace if broken and may result in our inability to conduct investigations. Inappropriate use of lab equipment is a serious offense and may result in a zero on the assignment, parental contact, and/or disciplinary action. Further misuse of equipment will result in a written referral. We are trying our best to work with what we have, please be respectful and considerate.

## **CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

- Come to class prepared and ready to learn!
- Respect others and their ideas.
- Be seated quietly when the bell rings.
- Respect classroom equipment.
- Put away and silent personal electronic devices.
- No personal grooming.
- In addition to classroom policies, students are expected to abide by school and district policies.