

Physics 31A, Physics for Engineers I (4 credits)

UVM Physics Department – Spring 2023

Class schedule:

Lecture: MWF 8:30-9:20 AND T 8:30-9:45 in Innovation E330

Three evening exams: Wednesday 6:40-7:30 pm: Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, Given E131

Final exam (comprehensive): Friday 7:30 – 10:15 am, May 12, ML SCI 235

Note: There is an optional 1 credit course, Physics 30, to work on problems. Consider enrolling.

Primary webpage for course:

[Mastering Physics ID: donforth57475](#) click link to enroll.

Instructor: Dr. Luke Donforth (he/him)

Office Hours: M & W 10-11 or by appointment

Office: Innovation E227

Email: luke.donforth@uvm.edu (I will respond, but not on evenings or weekends.)

Phone: 802-656-0052 (landline, no text)

Please utilize office hours for help and/or to discuss interesting aspects of the physics we're studying. Answering questions about material is easiest in person. If you have questions about grading, please email so that we both have a record of the conversation.

TAs: there are multiple TAs for the course and the different sections, and you can go to any TA office hours. Please check the course

This course will meet for three 50-minute classes per week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and one 75-

Grading Criteria & Policies:

Each student will receive a total grade based on the grades of the exams, homework, pre-lecture, and in-class assignments. The individual components will be scaled and converted to letter grades according to:

Mid-terms 30% (10% each, 50/50 group/individual)
Final: 15% (*see test schedule on first page of syllabus*)
Pre-Lecture Reading Quizzes: 5%
In-class (Learning Catalytics): 30% (participation and correctness)
Homework 20%

A = 90 - 100%
B = 80 - 89.9%
C = 70 - 79.9%
D = 60 - 69.9%
F = 59.9% or below

All grades will be posted electronically to ensure privacy. It is each student's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the postings. Please report any discrepancies promptly.

Exams: the three midterms during the semester will be a combination of a group exam during regular class time and an evening exam during the established exam blocks. Much of the work done in engineering is done in groups, so you must participate in both the group and individual portion of the exams, and they will both be factored into your final grade.

Missing Hourly Exams: Missing a midterm exam will result in a score of zero unless the student has a valid excuse (and accompanying note from physician, dean, etc.). A student with a valid excuse may be given a make-up exam at a time that is mutually convenient for the student and the instructor.

Missing the Final: Missing the final examination will result in a final course grade of F unless the student has arranged with the instructor through the appropriate academic dean for an "Incomplete."

Homework:

Part of the course objectives is for you to understand physics concepts and also be able to apply them numerically. We will work on that in class, and you will have more opportunities to practice and demonstrate your mastery via homework problems. Please keep up with the Mastering Physics page for homework assignments. Note that there are problems that are due and graded (labeled Homework in Mastering Physics).

It is allowed and even encouraged for you to work on the homework problems together. However, after discussing it with other students, instructors, and/or TAs, you should do the work yourself. Please do not utilize online repositories such as Chegg; that is a violation of UVM's code of Academic Integrity, a

During the daily sessions, we'll cover material in discussion, group problem-solving, conceptual analysis, and lecture. A portion of your final grade is contingent on your participation in these sessions. You should read the pertinent sections of the textbook before coming to class, to be well prepared to participate in the discussions and problem solving. We will work together to

Attendance and illness:

If a student will not be able to attend in-person classes for qualifying health reasons, Student

Course Evaluation:

All students are expected to complete a **mid-term** evaluation and final evaluation of each course they are enrolled in. Indicate that the evaluations will be anonymous and confidential, and that the information gained, including constructive criticisms, will be used to improve the course.

[Click here for instructions on how to access Blue course evaluations.](#)

Student Learning Accommodations:

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing ADA accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the office of Disability Services on campus for students. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to faculty in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly recommended to dis

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The University [final exam policy](#) outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period.

Grade Appeals:

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures [outlined in this policy](#).

Grading:

[This link](#) offers information on grading and GPA calculation.

