

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PHYS 1410
Revised Summer 1 2025

Department: Science
Discipline: Physics
Course Number: PHYS 1410
Course Title: Elementary Physics
Available Formats: Hybrid
Campus: Levelland

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Bouldin
Office: S70 Levelland campus
Office hours: MW Noon-12:15pm, available by appointment
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SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE.

Course Room: S65

Course Description: Conceptual level survey of topics in physics intended to acquaint liberal arts and other non-science majors with the basic laws and vocabulary of physics. A minimum level of mathematics is used.

Credit hours: 4 **Lecture hours:** 3 **Lab hours:** 3

Course Textbook: Conceptual Physics by Paul G. Hewitt, 13th edition, required

Supplies: Students will each need a three ring binder, loose leaf paper or a spiral notebook that will fit inside the binder, a scientific calculator (not a phone), and writing utensils.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Life and Physical Sciences Foundational Component Area (030)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

Communication skills--to include effective written, oral, and visual communication.

Critical Thinking skills--to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Empirical and Quantitative skills--to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

Teamwork skills--to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students shall be able to:

1. Distinguish between displacement, velocity, and acceleration
2. Solve simple problems involving uniform motion
3. Apply Newton's laws of motion to various physical examples
4. Understand the concepts of momentum and the conservation of momentum
5. Understand the concepts of energy and the conservation of energy
6. Describe the different phases of matter from an atomic perspective
7. Understand how depth of fluid affects pressure and force
8. Understand the concepts of density and buoyant force
9. Discuss the first law of thermodynamics and various means of heat transfer
10. Make simple calculations involving changes in temperature and phase when different systems interact
11. Understand the forces that give rise to oscillatory motion
12. Describe and calculate the basic properties of waves
13. Distinguish between different types of waves and wave phenomena
14. Discuss electric charge and the role it plays in atomic structure
15. Calculate electric forces using Coulomb's law
16. Describe electric field and its effects
17. Understand simple circuits and make calculations using Ohm's law
18. Describe magnetic field and its effects
19. Explain the spectrum of electromagnetic waves and the properties of blackbody radiation
20. Understand image formation using mirrors and lenses
21. Calculate the image position and magnification produced by a simple thin lens
22. Discuss various optical phenomena such as reflection, refraction and dispersion of light
23. Discuss and perform simple calculations related to the quantum nature of matter
24. Describe the functioning of a laser
25. Explain the basic structure of a nucleus
26. Distinguish between the three basic types of radioactivity
27. Use radioactive half-life in simple calculations
28. Describe the basic principles of radioactive dating
29. List the four fundamental interactions and give examples of each
30. Understand the basic concepts of the theory of relativity

Breakdown of Grading:

Lab exercises/homework	20%
Quiz average	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Midterm paper	15%
Final	5%

Grading scale:

100---A---90, 89---B---80, 79---C---70, 69---D---60, 59---F---0

(**Bonus points** may be given for assignments and activities that are considered above and beyond course requirements. *Students are strongly encouraged to attempt all bonus assignments.*)

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in this class will be taken from completed assignments. Everything done face-to-face in class will be recorded and posted on Blackboard. If a student feels ill with ANY symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be required to stay home and complete the assignments for the day at home.

- All students, faculty and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 should contact DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN in Health Services at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or at (806) 716-2376.

For more information on the attendance policy, please see the following link:

http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=60&navoid=2086#Class_Attendance

You should always check Blackboard before coming to class in order to make sure that class has not been cancelled due to the instructor's illness.

Computer/Software requirements

Minimum Computer Requirements:

1. Personal computer with a 1 GHz Pentium processor and at least 512 MB of RAM memory, a minimum 5 GB of free hard drive, running Windows 7 / MacOS 10.8 or later (Windows 10 / MacOS 10.12 recommended).
2. Web Browser: Google Chrome seems to work the best with Blackboard and HOL.
3. A high speed internet connection of 5+ Mbps.
4. Microsoft Office and Microsoft PowerPoint and Word software (a recent version, preferably 2016 or higher).
5. Windows Media Player (the latest version).
6. Soundcard and functioning speakers.
7. Knowledge of how to navigate Google Chrome web pages and how to deal with pop-up blockers and other devices and warnings on Google Chrome.
8. Knowledge of how to download files from the Google Chrome and find them on your computer once they are downloaded.
9. Knowledge of basic operations of Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint.
10. Knowledge of how to view and adjust videos with Windows Media Player.

Additional notes on technology:

I will respond to individual emails as quickly as I can. I will always send a reply email when an assignment is sent through email to let the student know that I have received it. If you send me something through email, and you do not receive a response within 2 days, please resend it. I will always at least touch base with you within a 2-day time period unless I am ill.

Also, a student will not be punished in the even that Blackboard or an SPC server is down when an assignment is due. If you need to print, turn something in, or access something online, please try to do so ahead of time and not at the last minute in order to avoid this situation.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online Student Initiated Drop Request to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a Student Initiated Drop Form and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of “W” will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F or X for the course, if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Submitting work that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or an online term paper site.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.
5. Violating the Artificial Intelligence policy, as outlined in the syllabus. For more information on AI, please reference this in the syllabus statements:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another’s work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student’s work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student’s;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else’s paper.

PHYS 1410 Elementary Physics Tentative Schedule Summer 1 2025

<p>Day 1 June 2 Introduction, Ch 1 Lab 1—Fresnel lens and solar power demonstration, Size of the Sun (weather permitting) Lab 2—Size of the Solar System *HW Ch 1</p>	<p>Day 6 June 18 Ch 9 Exam 1 over Ch 1-6 Lab 9—Gravity HW Ch 9</p>
<p>Day 2 June 4 Ch 2 and Ch 3 Lab 3—1D Air Rocket (Weather permitting) Lab 4—Use the Force! HW Ch 2 and HW Ch 3</p>	<p>Day 7 June 23 Ch 10 Lab 10—Projectile Motion Lab 11—Center of Mass Midterm Papers due by 8am HW Ch 10</p>
<p>Day 3 June 9 Ch 4 and Ch 5 Choose Midterm Paper topic Nova video—Mathematical Mysteries Lab 5—Egg drop contest Review for Quiz 1 HW Ch 4 and HW Ch 5</p>	<p>Day 8 June 25 Ch 22 and Ch 23 Midterm Quiz (Open note/book/internet) Lab 12—Electrostatics Lab 13—Simplest motor Review for Exam 2 HW Ch 22 and HW Ch 23</p>
<p>Day 4 June 11 Ch 6 Quiz 1 over Ch 1-4 Lab 6—Momentum HW Ch 6</p>	<p>Day 9 June 30 Ch 24 Lab 14 Simple Motor Exam 2 over Ch 7-23 HW Ch 24 for +10 Bonus points, due 7/2/25 at 8am submitted by email</p>
<p>Day 5 June 16 Ch 7 and Ch 8 Lab 7—Conservation of Energy/Marble coaster Lab 8—Rotational Motion Review for Exam 1 HW Ch 7 and HW Ch 8</p>	<p>Day 10 July 2 Final Exam covering Ch 1-10, 22-24 (The Final Exam will be posted at 8am on 7/2/25 and will be due at midnight that day.)</p>

*All homework assignments are due by the next class meeting. However, I will accept late homework until 8am on 7/2/25 without penalty. I would rather you turn it in complete a few days late than not at all. Please try your best to be caught up on all work at the time of the quizzes and exams, for this is the purpose of the homework assignments.