

## Tentative Syllabus for Physics Lab 251: Spring 2010.

Professor: Dr. Stuart Hutton

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To access the Physics Gateway: <http://hutton.lyon.edu>

**During class periods, cell phones are to be switched off.**

### Office Hours

I will schedule several office hour blocks. I will be very close to my office during these times. Otherwise, I will usually be close to my office or research lab. If you want to find me outside of office hours, make an appointment so that you will be sure to find me. My schedule is located on the physics home page which you may review to determine office hours.

### Grading

**As a general guide to grades, grades will be assigned as follows:**

100-90]	(90-80]	(80-70]	(70-60]	<(60
A	B	C	D	F

**There are 10 labs this semester: each lab is worth 10% of your final grade.**

**The final course grade may reflect subjective course aspects such as attendance and positive class participation.**

**This course grade is completely separate from Phy220 and Phy250.**

In this course, your grade will depend upon successful completion of lab experiments and reports. **You are also expected to have read the lab before coming to class.** You should bring your text, a calculator, paper and perhaps graph paper to lab. You are required to hand in your lab report in 1 week, normally at the beginning of lab. In order to do this, you will need to come to lab on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late for a given lab, you will not be permitted to do the lab during that particular time and the lab grade will be recorded as an absence. There will be about 10 lab reports for this course and each of the lab reports carries an equal amount of weight in the determination of your final grade. A portion of your lab grade from any particular experiment may come from oral answers to questions when you turn in your lab report or pre-lab quizzes. Thus, it is important that you understand what you did during the lab before turning the lab report in to your professor. Your work on lab write-ups will be graded for correctness, clarity and completeness. **Failure to supply details leading to a result will result in very little credit for a lab.** If you want full credit for a lab, **you must** supply the logical steps that led to the result and the result **must include proper units.** You should supply sample calculations where appropriate. Diagrams and graphs should be included where appropriate. Aside from data tables and graphs, the components required for the proper lab write-up should take about 2 - 3 pages for any given lab. Be sure that each lab starts with a cover page as indicated in the lab write-up guidelines. Make sure that your lab write-up is in the form of paragraphs with correct English grammar as indicated on the lab write-up guidelines. Failure to follow the guidelines will negatively impact your grade.

## Lab report due dates and late lab reports and formats

Lab reports will be due 1 week after the lab is performed. If you miss a lab for an excused reason, you must make up the lab as soon as possible. If you hand in a lab report late for an unexcused reason, you will lose a minimum of 10% of your grade. After the first several labs, labs will normally be handed in through means of email. **Electronic labs will be submitted in pdf format only. When including spreadsheets, be sure to format tables so they fit on the page. I should be able to read your lab without having to change anything.**

**Lab reports more than 2 weeks late will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be recorded for that particular lab.**

**If you miss a lab for an excusable reason, you must make up the lab for credit. If you schedule a makeup lab and fail to show up for the makeup, no future makeup labs will be permitted. If you miss 3 or more labs (unexcused), you will fail the course.**

### Course Description

In this course you will be exposed to the experimental side of physics. Among the experiments that we will investigate are electrostatics, magnetism and optics.

### Course Objectives

As a consequence of this course, you should obtain an enhanced understanding of the experimental nature of physics. In addition, you should come away from this course with an ability to interpret data in a scientifically valid manner and to have increased experience with writing brief technical reports.

### Course Prerequisites

In order to be taking the physics lab, you must be currently enrolled in either physics 220 or physics 250 and therefore you must satisfy the prerequisites for those courses.

### Text

The text will consist of handouts in electronic format obtained via the physics gateway at:

<http://www.compchem.org/~shutton/index.html>.

### Attendance

#### The [Lyon College Catalog states](#) (FA09-SP10)

Students are expected to attend all class periods for the courses in which they are enrolled. They are responsible for conferring with individual professors regarding any missed assignments. Faculty members are to notify the Registrar when a student misses the equivalent of one, two, three, and four weeks of class periods in a single course. Under this policy, there is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. A reminder of the college's attendance policy will be issued to the student at one week, a second reminder at two weeks, a warning at three weeks, and notification of administrative withdrawal and the assigning of an "F" grade at four weeks. Students who are administratively withdrawn from more than one course will be placed on probation or suspended (see Academic Probation and Academic Suspension).

### Academic Honesty

It is expected and encouraged that students in this class will work together on homework problems. If you use reference work, be sure to include proper references. On tests, students are required to keep notes and books closed except as instructed. **Your professor will supply all the paper needed for the tests.** Any questions during tests should be directed to the professor only.

**All graded work in this class is to be pledged in accordance with the Lyon College Honor Code.**

"Students seeking reasonable accommodations based on documented learning disabilities must contact the Office of Academic Services at 307-7332."