1 Introduction

Welcome to Physics 201! This course serves as an introduction to the basic physics of mechanics, a field of physics that helps us understand and predict the motion of everyday objects. It also introduces us to some very fundamental and important concepts such as force, energy, momentum, rotations, torque, and laws that govern the universe. Given the introductory nature of this course, equal weight is given to conceptual understanding of the material as well as the ability to solve problems. From a broader perspective, I hope this course introduces you to a way of thinking, an approach to problem solving and a view of the world that may be different from what you have experienced before. I hope that journey will be fun for you.

2 Course prerequisites

A solid understanding of trigonometry and algebra is very important in this class. Skills such as solving quadratic equations, simultaneous equations, and working with trigonometric functions and right triangles are a necessity. If you are unsure about whether your mathematical background is appropriate, please come see me.

3 Contact Information

My contact information, weekly schedule, and office hours are listed below. I’d be happy to meet with you outside of these scheduled hours if you make (and keep) an appointment; via e-mail is best. Please turn off all of your electronic gadgets when we meet.

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Haaland  
Office: 603 Berndt Hall  
Phone: 970.247.7514  
Email: haaland_r@fortlewis.edu  
Website: http://faculty.fortlewis.edu/Haaland%5FR/  
Office Hours: Check website

4 Course Information

In the following sections you’ll find more course details. Please read the remainder of this document thoroughly.
4.1 Syllabus and General Expectations

Each lesson has assigned reading and homework that are outlined in the accompanying course syllabus. Please make use of the course website (linked below) to get the most up-to-date information. Depending on our pace we may change things up a bit.

http://faculty.fortlewis.edu/Haaland%5FR/courses/201/Physics%20201.htm

4.2 Textbook & Resources

*Physics*, 6th ed. by Giancoli is the text we will use for this course. Purchase either the two-volume set (if you plan on taking Physics 202) or the single volume by itself if you will not be continuing. You will need your text in class. You will also need to purchase the **coursepack**. This contains materials for our lab and workshop activities. Finally, **PRS transmitters** are required for this class. Purchase these at the bookstore and bring them to class every day.

4.3 Course Grading

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<thead>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Exams 3 at 100</th>
<th>300</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab &amp; workshop activities 12 at 15</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework 12 at 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRS Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz &amp; other</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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4.3.1 PRS Participation

We’ll begin most classes with a reading “quiz” consisting of a single question based on material from the assigned reading. You’ll answer these questions, and possibly others, with your PRS transmitter. Typically, each class period will have 6 points associated with electronic quizzes: 4 points for participation and the remaining two points for correctness. Your total points will be tallied and scaled to 150 points possible for the term.

4.3.2 Exams

Exams are closed book, but a sheet of formulae is provided. Grading will focus on your thought processes and your reasoning used in arriving at a solution, not just the answer itself. I will give partial credit for correctly translating the problem into the language of physics, including diagrams and correctly identifying the appropriate equations that describe the problem. **Make-up, early and late exams are not given.** It is your responsibility to be at each exam or quiz, even if the day of the exam changes.
4.3.3 Laboratory

Lab attendance is mandatory. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will lose points on your lab marks for that particular meeting.

4.3.4 Homework

Homework due dates are noted in “Homework” section of your syllabus and on the website. Your homework is evaluated with two levels of scrutiny; part for your level of effort on the collection of problems assigned and part for the thoroughness of your answer to specific problems. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date noted in the syllabus.

4.3.5 Late Homework

I use a graduated penalty scheme for late homework. Late homework is penalized 25% per calendar day. So for example if you turn in an assignment one day late and earned 7 out of a possible 10 points, you will receive 5 (7 × 75%, rounded to the nearest integer). Turn in late homework into the “Physics 201” box by the Physics & Engineering study room (Berndt Hall 671). Please sign and date your late homework and please do not slide your work under my door.

4.3.6 Grading Errors

Requests for re-grading of an exam must be in writing and must specify exactly why additional credit is warranted. No requests for changing an exam grade will be accepted more than 48 hours after an exam is returned.

5 Important Information

5.1 Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities have equal access and equal opportunity in this course. If you require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements, you must register with Disability Services, 280 Noble Hall, 247-7459. If you qualify for services, bring your letter of accommodation to me as soon as possible.

5.2 Academic Dishonesty

Any incidence of academic dishonesty will usually result in a zero on the assignment in question and referral to college authorities. I retain the right to adjust these consequences on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure whether what you are doing is plagiarism it is your responsibility to ask me before you turn in your work.
5.3 Department of Physics & Engineering Policies

Additional policies pertaining to this course may be found here:

http://faculty.fortlewis.edu/tyler_c/home/phys-engr_syllabus.htm

Please read the information at this site. You are responsible for reading and understanding all the policies associated with this course.

6 Conclusion

This is a great course and I believe you’ll find it challenging and rewarding. As we make this journey through the world of introductory physics, please let me know if you have any questions or comments, either about the course administration or the course content. I look forward to sharing the semester with you.

DR. RYAN HAALAND  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS