

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTRODUCTORY COURSES AND LABS

Introductory courses are four credit hours and have a lab component. These courses are

- **PHYS 1403 – Algebra-based Mechanics**
- **PHYS 1404 – Algebra-based Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics**
- **PHYS 1408 – Calculus-based Mechanics**
- **PHYS 2401 – Calculus-based Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics**

Labs should be between 20-25% of the course credit.

Labs are three hours long for 1403 and 1404, with one hour devoted to discussion/recitation. The content of the discussion/recitation is the responsibility of the lecture instructors.

Labs are two hours long for 1408 and 2401. There is no discussion/recitation.

Labs run from Monday through Thursday. They begin at 8:00 AM. The last lab of the day typically ends at 7:50 PM.

TA meetings are held on Friday. The TA's work through the labs they will be teaching the following week and deal with any issues that arose the previous week. The meeting schedule is typically 1404/2401 9-11; 1408 1-3; 1403 3-5.

Under normal conditions we usually do 11-12 labs each semester. The exact number is determined by variations in the calendar and the semester. The spring semester tends to have one week more than the fall. Typically, we don't do labs on weeks where there is a student holiday (Labor Day, MLK, Thanksgiving, Easter Monday).

We try to stay behind where students are in lecture, although this is not always possible.

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO LAB INSTRUCTION

To the extent possible labs are taught using interactive engagement. IOW, TA's try to guide the students to an understanding of the concepts and not simply give them the answer. TA's move around the room, answering questions and ASKING QUESTIONS, and interacting with the students.

Lab grades are determined from the lab itself, participation, and lab homework. Sometimes the discussion/recitation grade is included in the 1403 and 1404 lab grades, depending on how the lecture instructors want to count the discussion/recitation.

COVID-19 AND ITS EFFECTS ON LABS

This fall labs will be conducted in a hybrid format, with half of the students attending the first week and the other half attending the second week. This will allow for approximately 5 labs conducted face to face. The weeks students don't attend labs in person, they will have an online lab.

The schedule is complicated by the fact that Labor Day, which is usually the 2nd Monday of the semester, is the 3rd Monday this semester. Students will start the semester with an online lab I will email them the 2nd week, and face to face labs will start the 4th week of the semester.

Students will be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the lab.

TA's will be responsible for wiping down the tables and equipment before the next class begins. Labs will be dismissed at 15 minutes before the hour in order to allow the TA's to do this.

Accommodations will only be made for students who have paperwork from the university or who need the class to graduate this semester.

In the past, I have allowed makeup labs for excusable absences and not worried if someone making up a lab exceeds the enrollment cap by one. Because our labs are usually at capacity and the university is enforcing social distancing, there will be no makeup labs. Instead I will drop the lowest lab grade that isn't an unexcused absence.

BASIC LAB POLICIES

Each student is provided a copy of the lab policies via email. They are expected to turn in a sign copy. This will count as a homework grade.

These policies include:

- No food or drink in the labs (This is a university policy.)**
- Students must wear a mask or other appropriate face covering at all times in lab. Students without a mask or who insist on taking off a mask once lab has started will be dismissed and receive no credit.**
- Students must have lab manual to be admitted to lab.**
- Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will not be admitted to lab. This is to make sure the students who are on time finish. Some labs take most of the period to complete. If they have to stop and catch someone up, it can keep the entire group from finishing on time. The TA is the one who determines if a student is late, not the student. I will not overrule the TA in this situation.**

- **Unexcused absences (late, no manual, oversleeping, “I forgot”, etc.) cannot be made up.**
- **Students who violate the academic integrity policy by turning identical homework or copying answers they find online will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. If found in violation of the Code of Conduct, they will receive a zero for all work associated with that lab.**