



SYLLABUS

PHYS 2325 - UNIVERSITY PHYSICS I SPRING 2024

General Course Information

Information Item	Information
Instructor:	Dr. Orion Ciftja
Section # and CRN:	P01 ; CRN: 24212
Office Location:	E.E. Obanion Science Building, 330F
Office Phone:	936-261-3137
Email Address:	ogciftja@pvamu.edu
Office Hours:	TR 2 PM
Mode of Instruction:	F2F
Course Location:	O'Banion Bldg. Rm 309
Class Days & Times:	TR 12:30 PM-1:50 PM
Catalog Description:	Credit 3 semester hours. Credit 3 semester hours. A calculus-based general physics for science and engineering students, with topics primarily from mechanics, such as kinematics in one and two dimensions, Newton's laws of motion, Newton's Universal Gravitational law, work-energy, uniform circular motion, gravity, rotational kinematics and dynamics, and simple harmonic motion.
Prerequisites:	MATH 1124 (Calculus I)
Co-requisites:	N/A
Required Text(s):	University Physics with Modern Physics by W. Bauer and G. D. Westfall 2011 (McGraw Hill)
Recommended Text(s):	N/A

General Course Information Table

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
gain enough knowledge of the theory covered to apply it to the solution of a wide range of practical problems that involve physics. Hopefully this will help the students to better understand the theory of operations of many instruments and devices that they will encounter as they become employed in the various fields mentioned earlier. In addition, it will help them solve new problems that they will possibly meet on their various fields of employment that require basic knowledge of physics.		
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of algebra and solve problems involving algebraic equations, systems of equations, quadratic equations and abstract manipulation of variables	Critical Thinking & Empirical/Quantitative skills	Critical Thinking & Empirical/Quantitative skills
2. Students will develop proficiency in the methods of basic vector operations: addition, subtraction, dot product, cross product and calculations using i, j, and k notation and learn to apply these methods to general physics	Critical Thinking & Empirical/Quantitative Skills	Critical Thinking & Empirical/Quantitative Skills
3. Students will understand and demonstrate knowledge by writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, correcting and presentation	Communication and	Communication and Personal

of acquired knowledge	Personal Responsibility	Responsibility
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge by understanding the importance of specifying audience and purpose through the selection of appropriate communication choices	Empirical/Quantitative skills and Communication	Empirical/Quantitative skills and Communication
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge and solve problems dealing with mechanical motion, laws of motion, conservation principles and waves	Empirical/Quantitative skills and Communication	Empirical/Quantitative skills and Communication
6. Students will demonstrate their mastery of these areas through collecting and analyzing data, computer simulations, class-room discussions and participating effectively in groups with emphasis on reflective thinking	Teamwork and Communication	Teamwork and Communication

Student Learning Outcomes Table

Major Course Requirements

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Exercises – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

Projects – web assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented course material

Class Participation – daily attendance and participation in class discussions

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Assignments (Home Work)	2 assignments at 10 points each	20
Quizzes	N/A	N/A
Other Exams	2 exams at 20 points each	40
Mid Term Exam	20 points	20
Class Participation/ Discussion	N/A	N/A
Final Exam	20 points	20
Total:	100	100

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

Based into a percentage scale of total points earned relative to the maximum of 100 points, the grading system is as follows:

A = 90% – 100%;

B = 80% – 89%;

C = 70% – 79%;

D = 60% – 69%;

F = 59% or below

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
Exams	Exams will consist of solving quantitative and/or qualitative physics problems. All examinations are closed book and the final exam may be comprehensive. The use of calculators is permitted and encouraged. Half of the exams are given during the first half of the semester and the other half of the exams during the second half of the semester. Makeup examinations are given ONLY for a university-approved absence verified in writing in the case of face-to-face classes.
Home Works	The homework assignments will consist of solving quantitative and/or qualitative physics problems. All homework assignments are closed book. The use of calculators is permitted and encouraged. The homework assignments are evenly spread throughout the semester. Students can work together in homework assignments, but each student must submit his/her homework separately.
Make-up Policy	No Make-Up assignments (exams or home-works) for online classes. If one assignment (exam or home-work) is missed, the score in the final exam replaces the missed one. A score of zero is given for any other assignment (exam or home-work) that is missed.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

N/A

Semester Calendar

Week One: Topic	Measurements in physics
Chapter (s):	Ch.1
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Two: Topic	Motion in one dimension
Chapter (s):	Ch. 2
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Three: Topic	Motion in two dimensions
Chapter (s):	Ch. 3
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Four: Topic	Force and Newton's laws of motion
Chapter (s):	Ch. 4
Assignment (s):	Assignment 1
Week Five: Topic	Force and Newton's laws of motion (continued)
Chapter (s):	Ch. 4
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Six: Topic	Work and energy
Chapter (s):	Ch. 5
Assignment (s):	Assignment 2
Week Seven: Topic	Work and energy (continued)
Chapter (s):	Ch. 5
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook

Week Eight: Topic	Momentum and Collisions
Chapter (s):	Ch. 6
Assignment (s):	Assignment 3 (Mid-Term Exam)
Week Nine: Topic	Momentum and Collisions (continued)
Chapter (s):	Ch. 6:
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Ten: Topic	Rotational Motion
Chapter (s):	Ch. 8
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Eleven: Topic	Rotational Motion (continued)
Chapter (s):	Ch. 8
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Twelve: Topic	Gravitation
Chapter (s):	Ch. 9
Assignment (s):	Assignment 4
Week Thirteen: Topic	Oscillations
Chapter (s):	Ch. 7
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Fourteen: Topic	Solids and Fluids
Chapter (s):	Ch. 10
Assignment (s):	Assignment 5
Week Fifteen: Topic	Waves and Sound (optional)
Chapter (s):	Ch. 11
Assignment (s):	Read material in textbook
Week Sixteen: Topic	Review , study, and final exam days
Chapter (s):	All Chapters
Assignment (s):	Assignment 6 (Final Exam) [As scheduled by Registrar]

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. Phone: 936-261-1500; Website: [J. B. Coleman Library](#).

Academic Advising Services

Academic Advising Services offers students a variety of services that contributes to student success and leads towards graduation. We assist students with understanding university policies and procedures that affect academic progress. We support the early alert program to help students get connected to success early in the semester. We help refer students to the appropriate academic support services when the student is unsure of the best resource for their needs. Some students are supported by faculty advisors in their respective colleges. Your faculty advisor can be identified in PantherTracks. Advisors with Academic Advising Services are available to all students. We are located across campus. You can find your advisor's location by academic major at the [Academic Advising Website](#), Phone: 936-261-5911.

The University Tutoring Center

The University Tutoring Center (UTC) offers free tutoring and academic support to all registered PVAMU students. The mission of the UTC is to help provide a solid academic foundation that enables students to become confident, capable, independent learners. Competent and caring staff and peer tutors guide students in identifying, acquiring, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to reach their desired goals. Tutoring and academic support is offered face-to-face in the [UTC, in virtual face-to-face sessions](#), and through [online sessions at PVPlace](#). Other support services available for students include Supplemental Instruction, Study Break, Academic Success Workshops, and Algebra Study Jam. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 307; Phone: 936-261-1561; Email: pvtutoring@pvamu.edu; Website: [University Tutoring Center](#).

The Writing Center

The Writing Center provides well-trained peer tutors that assist students with writing assignments at any stage of the writing process. Tutors help students with various writing tasks from understanding assignments, brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, researching, and integrating sources. Students have free access to Grammarly online writing assistance. Grammarly is an automated proofreading and plagiarism detection tool. Student must register for Grammarly by using their student email address. In addition, students have access to face-to-face as well as virtual tutoring services either asynchronously via email or synchronously via Zoom. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 209; Phone: 936-261-3724; Website: [The Writing Center](#); [Grammarly Registration](#).

Academic Early Alert

Academic Early Alert is a proactive system of communication and collaboration between faculty, academic advisors, and PVAMU students that is designed to support student success by promptly identifying issues and allowing for intervention. Academic Early Alert helps students by providing a central location to schedule advising appointments, view advisor contact information, and request assistance. Students who recognize that they have a problem that is negatively affecting their academic performance or ability to continue school may self-refer an Academic Early Alert. To do so, students will log in to PVPlace and click on Academic Early Alert on the left sidebar. Phone: 936-261-5902; Website: [Academic Early Alert](#).

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Hobart Taylor, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3564; Website: [Student Counseling Services](#).

Office of Testing Services

Testing Services serves to create opportunities by offering suite of exams that aid in the students' academic and professional success. Currently we administer entrance (HESI A2), college readiness (TSI assessment), Prior Learning (CLEP, DSST), and proctored exams. Location: Wilhelmina Delco, 3rd Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: aetesting@pvamu.edu; Website: [Testing Services](#).

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services. As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hardware and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Hobart Taylor, Rm. 1D128; Phone: 936-261-3583; Website: [Disability Services](#).

Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS)

Distance Learning, also referred to as Distance Education, is the employment of alternative instructional delivery methods to extend programs and services to persons unable to attend college in the traditional manner. The Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS) supports student learning through online, hybrid, web-assisted and 2-way video course delivery. For more details and contact information, visit: [CIITS Student Webpage](#); Phone: 936-261-3283.

Veteran Affairs

Veteran Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall, Rm. 102; Phone: 936-261-3563; Website: [Veteran Affairs](#).

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center, Rm. 221; Phone: 936-261-1340; Website: [Office for Student Engagement](#).

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Anderson Hall, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3570; Website: [Career Services](#).

University Rules and Procedures

Academic Misconduct (See Student Planner)

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Planner, especially the section on academic misconduct (see *University Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity*). Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures. As listed in the PVAMU Undergraduate Catalog, Graduate Catalog, and the Student Planner, the following are examples of prohibited conduct. This list is not designed to be all-inclusive or exhaustive. In addition to academic sanctions, any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit the following academic misconduct may also be subject to disciplinary review and action as outlined in the PVAMU Student Planner.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. **Cheating:** Deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not learned, giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations. Examples: unauthorized use of notes for a test; using a "cheat sheet" on a quiz or exam; any alteration made on a graded test or exam which is then resubmitted to the teacher.
2. **Plagiarism:** Careless or deliberate use of the work or the ideas of another; representation of another's work, words, ideas, or data as your own without permission or appropriate acknowledgment. Examples: copying another's paper or answers, failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting or representing it as your own; submitting an assignment which has been partially or wholly done by another and claiming it as yours; not properly acknowledging a source which has been summarized or paraphrased in your work; failure to acknowledge the use of another's words with quotation marks.
3. **Multiple Submission:** Submission of work from one course to satisfy a requirement in another course without explicit permission. Example: using a paper prepared and graded for credit in one course to fulfill a requirement and receive credit in a different course.
4. **Conspiracy:** Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of academic/scholastic dishonesty.

5. **Fabrication of Information/Forgery:** Use or submission of contrived, invented, forged, or altered information in any assignment, laboratory exercise, or test; tampering with or production of a counterfeit document, particularly documents which make up the student's academic record. Examples: making up a source or citing nonexistent publication or article; representing made up data as real for an experiment in a science laboratory class; forging a change of grade or student withdrawal record; falsifying any document related to a student academic exercise.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Planner)

The University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, or (2) the ability of students to benefit from the instructional program, or (3) the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Office for Student Conduct under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual harassment of students and employees at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating the university's sexual harassment policy will be subject to disciplinary action. In accordance with the Texas A&M University System guidelines, your instructor is obligated to report to the Office of Title IX Compliance (titleixteam@pvamu.edu) any instance of sexual misconduct involving a student, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which the instructor becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. The faculty and staff of PVAMU actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like assistance, or have questions, they may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at the [Title IX Webpage](#) including confidential resources available on campus.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services or the Dean of Students' Office for additional information and to request accommodations. More information can be found at this [webpage](#).

Non-Discrimination Statement

Prairie View A&M University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs and activities. The University is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of discrimination or harassment, we encourage you to report it. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Director of Equal Opportunity & Diversity has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, and can be reached at Harrington Science Building, Suite 109 or by phone 936-261-1744 or 1792.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the University Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other

problematic academic event that prompted the complaint. Students can file Academic Complaints and/or Grade Appeals at this [webpage](#).

Technical Considerations

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 10 or later version; Mac with OS High Sierra*
- Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi*
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox

*Smartphone, Google Chrome books and Android tablets may not be supported. iPads are the only tablets supported.

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving emails
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Acrobat PDF Reader
- Windows or Mac OS
- Video conferencing software

Netiquette (online etiquette)

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. Do not use ALL CAPS for communicating to others AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING. Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you." Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons. Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and the message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.

Video Conferencing Etiquette

When using Zoom, WebEx or other video conferencing tools, confirm the visible area is tidy, clear of background clutter, inappropriate or offensive posters, and other distractions. Ensure you dress appropriately and avoid using high traffic or noisy areas. Stay muted when you are not speaking and avoid eating/drinking during session. Before class session begins, test audio, video and lighting to alleviate technology issues.

Technical Support

Students should go to the [Password Reset Tool](#) if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS) at 936-261-3283 or email ciits@pvamu.edu.

Communication Expectations and Standards

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application such as Word and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, copy and paste to the discussion board.

COVID-19 Campus Safety Measures

In accordance with the latest guidelines from the PVAMU Health Services, the following measures are in effect until further notice.

- Students who are ill will be asked to adhere to best practices in public health, such as masking, handwashing, and social distancing, to help reduce the spread of illness across campus.
- Mandatory self-reporting will no longer be required by students. Students will be responsible for communicating with their professors regarding COVID, similarly to any other illness.
- There will be no mandatory isolation. Students who are too ill to engage in classroom activities will be responsible for securing the appropriate documentation to support the absence.
- Students who self-isolate will be responsible for communicating with their professors and securing an excuse from Student Conduct.
- All students will have access to [TimelyCare](#), a telehealth platform that provides virtual medical care 24/7 and by appointment in the Student Health Clinic. Students are encouraged to enroll with TimelyCare at the beginning of the semester, at timelycare.com/pvamu.
- Students will have access to COVID testing in the Student Health Clinic by appointment. Testing is for students who are symptomatic ONLY.