University Physics 2 Lab (PHY2431)

Syllabus

Online Lab Manual: The lab manual for this course will be posted online. There is a “schedule” page that shows the weekly schedules of the lab experiments for the term. There are links for the lab manual (pdf format) for that experiment, any additional files needed, and the online help page (to be used during the lab session). That would be a very useful page to bookmark! Also included on that page are the lab report requirements.

Laptops during the lab session: Each group will need to have at least one, if not two laptops available during the lab session. Most of the labs require taking data, and the laptops have the lab software already installed. The second laptop could be used to view the online help pages.

Data/Question sheets: The last few pages of the lab manual contain the data/question sheets for the lab. These should be PRINTED OUT and brought in for each lab session. These will be filled out during the lab session, signed by the lab instructor, and then included with the lab reports. Make sure you fill out the questions as you go along – it is more important to understand the sections you did, as you go along - rather than race to finish and not understand anything.

Lab website: There is a web page containing the schedule of the labs, online help pages, and a revised "arc" list here: http://vnatsci.ltu.edu/natsci/physics/uphys2lab.shtml

Schedule: Labs are done each week. There is a grading rubric for each experiment that explains what sections are needed for that particular report, and how the lab will be graded. The lab reports are to be individual effort - not a group effort. Labs are to be typed and are to conform to the “lab report format” as outlined in the lab report instructions on the lab web page.

Course Objectives: The course objectives can be downloaded from the above website.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes at the beginning of each lab section. They will be based solely on some general questions on the lab you will do that week! This is to encourage you to read the lab manual before the lab session. The quizzes only last 5-10 minutes - it is meant to be a concept-testing opportunity. The quizzes count 20% of the final grade. One quiz will be dropped at the end of the term. You cannot take the quiz after the first 10 minutes of the lab class.

Makeup Labs: For special cases when you cannot attend a lab session, you can make-up the lab during the current week in one of the remaining days or during the NEXT week following the lab. You are responsible for finding a time that is convenient for you (during a regular lab session), fill a make-up form and get the signature of the instructor for the make-up lab. You cannot make-up a lab during your regular class since there is no sufficient time to cover TWO lab experiments in 2 hour time period. Ask the make-up lab instructor to initial your Data Sheets and staple the Make-Up Form to the front of the Lab report when is time to submit it. Submit the Lab report to your regular lab instructor.

Office hours: T.B.A. by your individual lab instructor.

Grading: Labs make up 80% of the final grade, quizzes make up 20% of the final grade. Your individual lab instructors will distribute information concerning their scoring policies. Labs will be graded on an 80 point scale, the quizzes on a 20 point scale – so the average of the lab grades will be added to the average of the quiz grades to determine the final score on a 100 point scale. The lowest lab grade and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the term.

Recommendation: All of the necessary steps to smoothly process the information we seek in a particular experiment will be contained in the lab manual. Studying the manual before the session will ensure an effective lab period. (Also, remember you will have a quiz for each lab session!) The emphasis is on conceptual understanding and experimentation ... try things!