This is a sample syllabus for PHY1020. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.
 COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHY1020 is a Liberal Studies course for the non-science major that contains the essential physics that students need to understand today's core science and technology issues, and to become the next generation of world leaders. The course empowers students possessing any level of scientific background with the tools they need to make informed decisions and to argue their views persuasively with anyone—expert or otherwise.

The lectures will occasionally cover material that is not in the text but will not cover all the material in the text (for example not covering Ch. 3). You are responsible for all the material in the assigned chapters (excluding the parts labeled optional unless stated otherwise in lecture), the material covered during the class periods, and the material in the assigned online work. The goal is that you will find the course interesting, challenging, and enjoyable.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- think critically and cogently about causal relationships with scientific reasoning.
- assess previous experimentation and published scientific results.
- critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction.
Course Materials

The following materials are used in this course.

Textbook


Be warned, the author has other similar titled books so make sure you get the right now.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

**Online Work**

Online assignments will be made weekly. You can find them in the Assignments tab of the course website on Canvas. Each week you will have **two tasks** to do online. First, you will have a **writing assignment**. Instructions and advice regarding the writing (essay) assignments are in the Files section on Canvas. Second, you will have a **weekly quiz** of multiple-choice questions that you can answer by carefully reading the relevant chapter of the textbook. You can take each quiz five times, and your highest score will be counted.

**Examinations**

There will be three exams. The first two exams will cover specific chapters/material and will be administered through Canvas on dates listed below. The third exam will be given in-person during the scheduled period during exam week and will cover the remaining chapters (2/3) plus some questions on material from the earlier chapters (1/3). The rules and regulations for students taking the exams are given in the FSU Academic Honor Policy (see below).

- Exam 1 (online): Weds. Feb. 22, Chapters 1, 2, 4
- Exam 2 (online): Weds. Apr. 5, Chapters 5, 6, 7
- Final exam (in-person): Tues. May 2 12:30-2:30pm, Chapters 8, 9, 10 plus some questions on material from earlier chapters
Grading

Grade Calculation

Your point total for the course will be determined by a combination of your online work scores and exam scores. You may earn a maximum of 100 points in the course. The three exams together will count 35 points. The weekly online assignments count for 65 points: 55 points for the writing and 10 points for the quizzes (see above). In computing your 55 writing assignment points, the ten best assignment scores will be used.

Exams.......................................................... 35 pts

Exam 1................................................ 10 pts
Exam 2................................................ 10 pts
Final Exam........................................... 15 pts

Weekly Online Assignments.............................. 65 pts

Writing........................................................ 55 pts
Quizzes..................................................... 10 pts

An example of how your total points are computed is in the Files tab on Campus. No extra credit work will be assigned.

Attendance

Experience from previous years shows that your grade is strongly correlated with your attendance and engagement in class!

Final Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.50-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.50-76.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.50-92.50</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.50-72.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.50-89.50</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66.50-69.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.50-86.50</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.50-66.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.50-82.50</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59.50-62.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76.50-79.50</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.50</td>
</tr>
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</table>
What these mean, for example, is that if you earn 91 points, your grade will be no worse than an A-, etc. The breakpoints for A, B, etc. will not be decided until after the last exam.

Some Sensible Advice

Some people find doing physics rather difficult, therefore here are a few tips to help make your adventures in physics fun:

- Use the textbook. You paid good money for it! Read each chapter before it is covered in class.
- Attend class.
- Find a study partner. *We strongly encourage students to study and learn together.*

Good luck and I hope you enjoy the course!

Course Schedule

The course schedule is listed on the Canvas homepage for this course. Adjustments to the course schedule may be necessary during the semester.
University Policies

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “…be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at https://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy (Links to an external site)).

ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

(1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
(2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and
(3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information on student support services.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victim Advocate Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Center A, Rm. 4100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(850) 644-7161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available 24/7/365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours: M-F 8-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap">https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap</a> (Links to an external site.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling and Psychological Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>942 Learning Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(850) 644-8255</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Health Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>(850) 644-6230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://uhs.fsu.edu/">https://uhs.fsu.edu/</a> (Links to an external site.)</td>
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Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring (Links to an external site.) or tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by
tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Liberal Studies**

This course has been approved as meeting the **Liberal Studies** requirements for **Natural Sciences** and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of the theories of the natural sciences and the facts that support them.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.