Physics 4A – General Physics with Calculus – (Lecture (40143) TuTh 1-2:50 and Lab (40144) Tu 6:30-9:20 in ATLAN 100)

"Be doers and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Course Description: Comprehensive study of major topics of physics: Motion, forces, gravity, energy, momentum, rotation, equilibrium, fluids, oscillations, waves, and sound.
(AA/AS area 1; CSU area B1/B3; IGETC area 5A/5C; C-ID PHYS 205; transferable to CSU and UC)

Prerequisites: Math 3A

Textbooks: All course textbooks are available at: reserve desk at the library, Math Lab, and the tutoring center.

- Required: *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* by Giancoli (4th ed., vol. 1, ISBN 0132273586, or a recent version)
  - Other "university physics" textbooks may be sufficient also.
- Recommended: *Portable TA: A Physics Problem Solving Guide, Vol. 1* by Elby (available on Moodle)
- Other supplementary material will be distributed in class and posted on Moodle.

Instructor: Andrew Park
E-mail: bpark@peralta.edu (also available at a@bkpark.com)

Office Hours: Monday 11 – 1, Wednesday 3 – 4, Thursday 11 – 1, and Friday 12 – 2
in Room 100, Peralta Science Annex, 860 Atlantic Ave., or by appointment

Class: Lecture Tuesday and Thursday 1 – 2:50 p.m. and Lab Tuesday 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.,
both in Room 100, Peralta Science Annex, 860 Atlantic Ave., Alameda.

Course website: on Moodle at http://eperalta.org/fall2017

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students apply the concepts of physics to everyday situations.
2. Students develop descriptions of physical systems using mathematics and calculate measurable quantities.
3. Students set up laboratory equipment safely, plan and carry out experimental procedures, identify possible sources of error, reduce and interpret data, and prepare clear written reports.

Tutoring: Physics tutors are usually available in Tutorial Center in the Math Lab on the 2nd floor of the LRC. Register for the free COA course, Learning Resources LRNRE 501, 24 hours in advance of using any tutoring services. Physics tutoring is also available at MESA center in Room 125.

Course Policy

Registration: After the last day to register for classes (Sep. 4), you must be registered in the class in order for you to receive credit. No students can be added after this date.

Attendance: Please come ready to work at the beginning of every class. Instructor may drop a student if the number of unexcused absences exceeds 6 (number of times the class meets in two weeks; refer to pg. 31 of College of Alameda 2015-2017 catalog for the college policy on attendance).

Participation: Asking questions is encouraged during lecture (please direct them to me, not your neighbors). *Answering* my questions is even more encouraged (I try not to ask rhetorical questions). Also, please come ready to participate in occasional group discussions and work. Taking notes is good, but participating is *better*.

Disruptions: Please take care of your personal needs before class, or during scheduled breaks. Also, please turn off cell phones and other communication devices and put them in your bag. If you must arrive late or leave early, or take other breaks, please do so quietly without disrupting other students. See pg. 237-238 of College of Alameda 2015-2017 catalog for student standards of conduct. (In short, please act like an adult.)

Academic Integrity: Everything you turn in must be your own work. If you use sources other than the textbook, please clearly cite it and give credit where it is due. Allowing another student to copy your own work also constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to pg. 237-246 of College of Alameda 2015-2017 catalog for the college policy on academic dishonesty and possible disciplinary measures.

Physics 4A Grading Policy

Course Grade Breakdown:

- Homework (10%): a total of 4 homework sets (one for each exam) are assigned for the semester
- Labs (20%): about 10 labs assigned throughout the semester
- Quizzes (10%): about 10 quizzes throughout the semester
- Midterm Exams (40%): three (3) midterm exams throughout the semester
- Final Exam (20%): one (1) comprehensive final exam during the finals week

Grading Rubric: A holistic grading scale is used for grading exams and quizzes.

- 5 (out of 5 points possible): Excellent understanding. The student clearly understands how to solve the problems; one or two minor mistakes can appear on a "5" solution, if they don't lead to larger conceptual errors.
- 4: Good understanding. The student understands the main concepts and problem-solving techniques but is missing one major concept, or made one major mistake that may involve conceptual misunderstanding.
- 3: Fair understanding. The student started to set up the solution and is on the right track of applying the problem-solving techniques but is several major steps (or mistakes) away from being able to solve it.
- 2: Poor understanding. The student jots down some formulas from memory that may be relevant to the problem but shows little conceptual understanding of how they should be used.
- 1: No understanding. The student writes down something that has something to do with the problem.
- 0: Blank answers.

Any requests for consideration of grade change must be submitted in writing.

Course Grade Scale: Following is the course grade scale.

A: 85 – 100%	B: 70 – 85%	C: 50 – 70%	D: 40 – 50%	F: below 40%

Homework: There will be one homework set for each group of topics covered in each exam. Please work through the homework set regularly (the quiz problems will be drawn from the homework set!) and turn in the set on the day of exam. Each set will be graded for completeness and effort demonstrated.

Quizzes: One problem at the level of the exam will be given for each quiz. It is meant to be an exam practice, to familiarize you with both problem-solving under exam-like conditions and the grading rubric.

Laboratory: Come prepared with writing instruments (pen and paper) and a calculator.

- Please arrive on time, so that your group can start on time. If you are tardy by more than 10 minutes, instructor may exclude you from participating in the lab, in order to avoid unduly burdening other students.
- For all labs: Follow all lab directions carefully and ask questions. The purpose of the lab is to help you develop physical intuition—make sure you do that during the assigned lab time (do not plan to "do it later").
- All labs are due at the end of the lab period unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Exams: Midterm and final exams will be given on following days and times:

- Exam 1, 2, and 3 (in class): September 26, November 7, and November 30
- Final Exam (during final exam period): Tuesday, December 12, 12 – 2 p.m.

Please contact me immediately if you have an unavoidable conflict with these times. There are no scheduled make-up exams; if you have an unavoidable conflict, you must make an arrangement for the missing exam with me individually.

Disability: Students who may need accommodation for their disabilities are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Program and Services (available in Room D-117 or by phone, 510-748-2328) as early as possible in the semester so that reasonable (and legally-mandated) accommodations may be made by the instructor and college. Usual accommodations made include: extended exam time, low-distraction exam environment, and/or note-takers. Most students with a diagnosed learning disability (such as ADHD) are eligible. If you are not sure whether you are eligible, please check with a DSPS counselor. The details regarding the nature of your disability are confidential and not shared with your instructor.

Physics 4A Schedule, Fall 2017

Wk	Class Plan			References	Notes
1	Tu LEC (Aug 22) Introductions & 1-D Kinematics (Quiz 1)	Tu LAB (Aug 22) Lab 1: Measurements and Error	Th LEC (Aug 24) 1-D Kinematics Cont'd	Giancoli Ch 1 & 2 P. TA Ch 1 – 3	
2	Tu LEC (Aug 29) Intro to Vectors & 2-D Kinematics	Tu LAB (Aug 29) Lab 2: Motion	Th LEC (Aug 31) 2-D Kinematics: Projectile Motion	Giancoli Ch 3 P. TA Ch 4 & 5	Last week to add & drop w/o W
3	Tu LEC (Sep 5) Newton's Laws of Motion (Quiz 2)	Tu LAB (Sep 5) Lab 3: Projectile Motion	Th LEC (Sep 7) Forces: Gravity & Normal Force	Giancoli Ch 4 P. TA Ch 6 & 7	
4	Tu LEC (Sep 12) Newton's Laws: Applications in 2D (Quiz 3)	Tu LAB (Sep 12) Lab 4: Dynamics	Th LEC (Sep 14) Newton's Laws: Friction	Giancoli Ch 5 P. TA Ch 8 & 9	
5	Tu LEC (Sep 19) Newton's Laws: Review & Additional Problems	Tu LAB (Sep 19) Problem-Solving Session: Newton's Laws and Motion	Th LEC (Sep 21) Uniform Circular Motion	Giancoli Ch 2 – 5 P. TA Ch 2 – 9	See posted Portable TA chapters for exam prep
6	**Tu LEC (Sep 26)** **Exam 1: Kinematics and Newton's Laws**	Tu LAB (Sep 26) Lab 5: Forces in Equilibrium	Th LEC (Sep 28) Circular Motion: Applications	Giancoli Ch 5 P. TA Ch 10	
7	Tu LEC (Oct 3) Work and Energy; Conservation of Energy (Quiz 4)	Tu LAB (Oct 3) Lab 6: Work and Energy	Th LEC (Oct 5) Spring Force & Potential Energy	Giancoli Ch 7 & 8 P. TA Ch 11	
8	Tu LEC (Oct 10) Linear Momentum, Impulse, Momentum Conservation (Quiz 5)	Tu LAB (Oct 10) Lab 7: Ballistic Pendulum	Th LEC (Oct 12) Application of Conservation Laws	Giancoli Ch 9 P. TA Ch 12	
9	Tu LEC (Oct 17) Application of Conservation Laws, cont'd	Tu LAB (Oct 17) Group Work: Problem-Solving Strategies	Th LEC (Oct 19) Static Equilibrium; Intro to Torque	Giancoli Ch 9 & 10 P. TA Ch 13	
10	Tu LEC (Oct 24) Intro to Rotation	Tu LAB (Oct 24) Lab 8: Rotational Inertia	Th LEC (Oct 26) PROFESSIONAL DAY (NO SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION)	Giancoli Ch 11 P. TA Ch 14 & 15	
11	Tu LEC (Oct 31) Rotational Dynamics and Rotational Inertia (Quiz 6)	Tu LAB (Oct 31) Problem-Solving Session: Mechanics	Th LEC (Nov 2) Angular Momentum	Giancoli Ch 7 – 11 P. TA Ch 10 - 16	See posted Portable TA chapters for exam prep
12	**Tu LEC (Nov 7)** **Exam 2: Force, Energy, Momentum, and Rigid-Body Rotation**	Tu LAB (Nov 7) Lab 9: Static Equilibrium	Th LEC (Nov 9) Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation	Giancoli Ch 12 & 6 P. TA Ch 17 – 19	

- Lecture topic schedule is subject to change, but I will try to keep on pace within a day or two of above schedule
- Some of the lab periods are used for problem-solving sessions (exam practice) and group work (extended time for concept reinforcement and problem-solving in groups). Please come ready to work; all students are expected to attend every class session.

Wk	Class Plan			References	Notes
13	Tu LEC (Nov 14) Simple Harmonic Oscillation	Tu LAB (Nov 14) Lab 9: Oscillations	Th LEC (Nov 16) Oscillations; Intro to Waves (Quiz 7)	Giancoli Ch 14 P. TA Ch 20	Last week to drop with W
14	Tu LEC (Nov 21) Waves and Sound	Tu LAB (Nov 21) Lab 10: Standing Waves	Th LEC (Nov 23) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	Giancoli Ch 15&16 P. TA Ch 21	
15	Tu LEC (Nov 28) Exam 3 Review (Quiz 8)	Tu LAB (Nov 28) Problem-Solving Session: Oscillations and Waves	**Tu LEC (Nov 30)** **Exam 3: Equilibrium, Oscillations, & Waves**	Giancoli Ch 12, 14 – 16 P. TA Ch 17 – 21	See posted Portable TA chapters for exam prep
16	Tu LEC (Dec 5) Fluids Intro	Tu LAB (Dec 5) Group Work: The Mechanical Universe	Tu LEC (Dec 7) Fluids, cont'd (Quiz 9)	Giancoli Ch 13 P. TA Ch 22	
Fin	**Tu Final (Dec 12)** **12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** **Final Exam: Mechanics**				

Tips for Success in Physics 4A

Follow these advices to maximize your chance of success in this class.

First, here's a little bit on my grading approach. My goal in grading is to reward two things: (1) the effort you put into this class, and (2) your understanding of physics and intuitive grasp of physical concepts. If you want to just pass this class, I have a good news: *my* goal is to pass every student who stays engaged with the course to the end of the semester, and so far, I have not failed. But most of you—especially those who want to transfer for an engineering degree—will want to do better than a C. So, how do you get a B or an A in this class?

The only way to do that is to demonstrate that you can *solve* problems involving a physical situation, like an engineer, chemist, or a physicist might. There are techniques and strategies that will help you do that (*some* of them, I will spend a fair amount of class time teaching). There are some tips and tricks that can simplify problem-solving (you will see some in lecture and more in your textbook and homework). But in the end, the goal is to learn how to solve physics problems.

So, how do you learn how to solve problems? Here's what you need to do:

- First, attend and fully participate in every class (7 hours every week), and organize your life so that you have about 8 hours of study time each week—that's over 2.5 hours for every day you don't have class. A total of 15 hours per week *is* what you are expected to spend for a 5-unit class.
- Second, get your reading done early. We move at a pace of about one chapter each week. This is about 20 pages per week of dense, technical reading. Some of you might get this done in 30 minutes; some may need 2 hours. After you are done reading, you still have about 6 hours of studying outside the class to do.
- Third, practice solving problems. This is where you should spend those 6 hours/week of study time. For your problem-solving practice, two important resources are available to you:
    - Homework problems (solution to be made available after each quiz) and
    - *The Portable T.A.*

  The Portable T.A. is a particularly useful resource, because you can *immediately* check if you did the problem right. I want all of you to get to a point when you simply know that you did a problem right, but until you get to that point, it's a useful feedback.

That's enough advice for first day. Attend every lecture and lab, and you will see the types of problem-solving techniques you will need, alongside the examples of physical intuition you should develop as an engineer or a scientist.