

Syllabus for Physics 100 – Section 1B

Spring 2005

Class meetings – Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:05 AM -9:55 AM., Campbell Hall (CH) 445

Instructor: Dr. James Martin (e-mail: jmartin@uab.edu, office phone: 205-934-8090)

Office hours: Monday, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM.-5:00 PM, and at other times by appointment.

Office location: Campbell Hall, Rm 344

This course will assist students in preparing for their first college-level physics course by reinforcing study skills, reviewing mathematical skills required in physics courses and providing practice in and feedback about problem-solving techniques. Students may progress through the sequential activities associated with this class at their own pace. Substantial one-to-one contact between the instructor and individual students or small groups of students will be provided by the format of this course—but this is a non-lecture course. Students who are not comfortable with this format should enroll in one of the other sections instead. This course is designed only for students who intend to take other physics courses in the future and is not suited as a stand-alone course.

Prerequisite: MA 106 or equivalent

Textbook: Required: Cutnell & Johnson, Physics (if you plan to take Physics 201) or Halliday, Resnick and Walker, Physics (if you plan to take Physics 221).

Course website: <http://www.phy.uab.edu/~martin>

Expectations for students: You must have a textbook and a calculator with scientific functions. Bring your calculator, textbook, and class notebook to each class. Practice activities will be provided using the WebAssign system. You will be provided with a login, password and instructions for accessing WebAssign. You may use your own computer with any fairly recent web browser or any of the student access computer labs at UAB. In addition, you can use the Physics Department computers in CH 394 (also called Del Square). A card key is required to access Del Square. If you already have a UAB card key (such as a card key to a UAB dormitory), you can use it. However, you need to activate it for Del Square. If you do not have a UAB card key, you need to buy one at the UAB key control office. For more information, see Ms. Patty Parsley in the Physics Office (e-mail: pparsley@uab.edu, phone: 975-8094).

Gates: Six gates are available for you to complete during the semester. Your final grade (see below) will be determined largely by the number of completed gates and the grade that you make on each. Each gate is designed to be completed in approximately 30 minutes. When you are ready to take a gate, request it from the instructor (by at least 9:45 AM). The start time will be written on the gate and you must return it to the instructor within 30 minutes in order for it to count. All gates must be returned to the instructor and may not be copied. You must pass all previous gates before attempting the next gate. The passing score for each gate will be provided and is approximately 80% of the possible score. You may retake gates as needed, but you may only take a particular gate once per class meeting.

Final exam: The final exam will cover the entire semester's course material. It is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM. You will be allowed to use your calculator only.

Grading: Grades will be weighted in this way: Pre-test = 5%, Gates = 10%, 14%, 16%, 18%, 20%, 22%, Final exam = 15%. Notice that these percentages add up to 120%. You can think of the Pre-test and Final exam as bonus points. Grades will be assigned as follows: A = >90%, B = 80-89.9%, C=70-79.9%, D = 60-69.9%, F = <60%.

Academic honesty: All students are expected to adhere to the UAB Academic Honor Code as listed in the student handbook. (Please see: <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=38715&site=1942&return=3577>.) Any acts that violate the honor code (cheating, etc.) will be dealt with aggressively as specified in the Code.

Students with disabilities: Efforts will be made to accommodate students with disabilities in this class. Requests must be made through the Disability Support Services office. For information, contact Disability Support Services at dss@uab.edu, 934-4205 or look up Disabilities Support Services on the UAB Web page.

Cellular phone policy: Use of cellular phones or pagers during class is not permitted. Please practice respect for your classmates and the instructor by turning phones off and putting them away before class starts.