

## COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

### **Physics 1180-VCM01: Physics in the Modern Era: Quarks to Cosmos Spring 2021**

*Instructor:* Dr. David R. Fazzini      *Office:* N/A (Not in office due to pandemic.)

*Virtual Office Hours:* MW: 10:20 AM – 11:50 AM & 2:20 PM – 3:40 PM  
T: 1:00PM – 1:50PM & 2:00PM – 2:50PM  
R: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
(Additional times available by virtual appointment.)

*E-mail:* [fazzinid@cod.edu](mailto:fazzinid@cod.edu)      *Phone:* N/A (Not in office due to pandemic.)

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#### **Course Description:**

Survey of physics of the twentieth century for the non-science major. Topics include relativity, quantum mechanics, elementary particles and cosmology. Topics of classical physics (mechanics, electricity, and heat) as a foundation are included.

*Semester Credit Hours:* 3

*IAI Course Code:* P1-900 (for general education)

*Prerequisites:* MATH 0482 Foundations for College Mathematics II with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or MATH 0465 Preparatory Mathematics for General Education with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent.

*Text:* Revolutions in Twentieth Century Physics by D. J. Griffiths (required)

*Material:* Chapters 1-5

*Supplement (required):* The New World of Mr. Tompkins by G. Gamow & R. Stannard

*Meetings:* Synchronous Lecture: MW: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM through **Blackboard Collaborate** (Details below.)

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#### **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to do following:

1. Convert different units of measure
2. Express physics quantities using scientific notation
3. Express numerical results using appropriate significant digits
4. Explain relationships among an object's position, displacement, velocity, and acceleration
5. Apply Newton's laws of motion
6. Distinguish different types of forces

7. Apply conservation laws to deduce the outcome of physical events
  8. Calculate different forms of energy (kinetic, potential, thermal)
  9. Describe how energy is converted from one form to another
  10. Describe the relationship among amplitude, frequency, period, wavelength, and speed of a wave
  11. Calculate positions of maximum constructive and destructive interference for waves
  12. Identify Einstein's postulates of special relativity
  13. Recognize the constancy of the speed of light as the basis for special relativity
  14. Calculate time dilations and length contractions for frames in relative motion
  15. Calculate relativistic energy and momentum
  16. Summarize the physical problems that led to the formulation of quantum mechanics
  17. Explain the photoelectric effect
  18. Recognize the meaning of the wave function in terms of probabilities
  19. Calculate the uncertainties using the Heisenberg uncertainty principle
  20. Explain the concept of quantum tunneling
  21. Calculate the spectral line properties (energies, frequencies, wavelengths) of a hydrogen atom using the Bohr model
  22. Describe the Pauli exclusion principle and its relationship to the periodic table of elements
  23. Differentiate among the major types of radioactive decay processes (alpha, beta, gamma) in unstable nuclei
  24. Describe the concepts of nuclear binding energy and its transformation into thermal energy in fission and fusion reactions
  25. Identify the fundamental forces of nature (strong, weak, electromagnetic, gravity) and the field particles according to the Standard model
  26. Apply conservation laws to determine allowable and forbidden particle interactions
  27. Interpret simple Feynman diagrams
  28. Use the Hubble law to calculate recessional velocities
  29. Recognize the cosmic microwave background as evidence for the Big Bang
  30. Explain the formation of light and heavy elements
  31. Describe our current understanding of dark matter and dark energy
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## Course Logistics:

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION can be found through the Blackboard website:

<https://bb.cod.edu/webapps/login/>

and the class webpage:

<https://cod.edu/faculty/websites/fazzinid/physics-1180.aspx>

Check the class webpage and log in to **Blackboard** regularly for general announcements and assignment updates. These sites will provide important announcements and course updates such as reading/online homework assignments and laboratory information. The class webpage will be updated on a regular basis and **Blackboard** will be used for blanket emails and grade dissemination.

LECTURES will take place live through **Blackboard Collaborate**. Because the lectures are *synchronous*, it is expected that you will “attend” the live lectures that take place from 1:00PM – 2:15PM Monday and Wednesday. To access the lectures you will need to log in to Blackboard and “join the class” each day. The class meetings will open 10 minutes before the official start time. Instructions on how to attend will come in a separate email.

READING assignments will be announced in class and posted on the class webpage. It is assumed that you have read the assigned material by the due date (see QUIZZES). Check the class webpage regularly for assignment updates.

HOMEWORK assignments will be provided online using the *FlipItPhysics* homework system found at the following URL below:

<https://www.flipitphysics.com/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2f>

You will need to subscribe to *FlipItPhysics* at a nominal cost. You will also need the following (case sensitive) access key: **1180Sp21FD**. The homework for the entire term is in the process of being generated. Check the *FlipItPhysics* calendar regularly for assignment updates. The homework will consist of two types: *Homework Questions* and *Homework Exercises & Problems*.

The *Homework Questions* consist of 10 or so multiple-choice questions and are based upon the reading and discussions from the assigned chapter(s). These tend to be conceptual in nature, but may also require a simple calculation. These *Homework Questions* must be submitted by **12:30 PM** on the due date unless otherwise announced. Once the final cut-off time has elapsed, you will not be able to submit answers or make any further changes. (In addition to the *Homework Questions*, short in-class exercises are used to monitor conceptual understanding. [See IN-CLASS POLLING.] These can typically be answered by keeping up with the reading assignments and class discussions.)

The *Homework Exercises and Problems* assignments typically consist of several computational exercises and are also due at **12:30 PM** of the date shown. In general, these assignments involve a numerical answer and may be printed for off-line completion if you desire. You may return to the computer to enter your answers and then submit. Only the electronic submissions will be accepted (prior to the cut-off time) for credit.

Be aware that it is very important that you make an honest attempt to work through the questions, exercises, calculations and problems since doing the homework is a primary technique for learning the material. It is also very important that you be able to understand the solutions conceptually rather than just memorizing formulas since the exam questions and problems generally require you to demonstrate application of the concepts being assessed. Be sure that you can answer any assigned question or solve any assigned problem since they may appear on an exam. It is your responsibility to seek assistance from your instructor and/or other resources if you are having difficulties.

QUIZZES consisting a few multiple-choice, matching, or short response questions based upon the chapter/section(s) reading assignment due that day are administered with warning or without warning prior to the start of each section of the text—essentially every class. (You must be in class for the quizzes at the time they are administered. There are no “make-ups.” However, there will be extra credit quizzes administered from time to time.) These are primarily designed to make sure that students keep up with the assigned reading and thus have some familiarity with the topics that are about to be discussed.

IN-CLASS POLLING will be administered during the lectures. The system will allow you to further interact with the instructor during the lecture. You will be able to respond to questions and give feedback as the course progresses. The questions typically consist of surveys, conceptual questions or short calculations and are designed to uncover some of the common pitfalls and surface possible misconceptions and that confuse many students. Students are encouraged to participate in small group discussions with classmates while answering these questions. Responses are recorded and scored. The scoring is used as a measure of class participation and can be used to determine final grades in borderline situations.

EXAMS will consist of three “one-hour” exams and a “2-hour” final exam. The one-hour exams and the first hour of the final exam typically consist of about 30 multiple-choice questions and 5-8 “short answer” problems. The final exam is comprehensive and typically has about 100 multiple-choice questions. The questions and problems are derived from homework sets, sample problems from the text and examples worked in class. All exams are closed book and closed note. However, you will be provided with a sheet of “possibly useful information” that contains formulas, constants, etc.

Tentative Exam schedule:

Exam I:	1:00 PM-2:15 PM, Monday, Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sections 1.1-2.2
Exam II:	1:00 PM-2:15 PM, Monday, Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sections 2.3-3.3
Exam III:	1:00 PM-2:15 PM, Monday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sections 4.1-5.4
Final Exam:	1:00 PM-2:50 PM, Wednesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sections 1.1-5.4

NOTE: Not every topic in the each assigned section may be discussed in class. However, you are responsible for every topic in each assigned chapter unless otherwise stated. If you are having trouble with a topic that is not discussed in class, it is your responsibility to seek out the instructor and/or other resources to ensure understanding of that topic. Also, the instructor reserves the right to substitute a written research project for the third exam. The topics for such a project will be provided by the instructor. Details forthcoming.

PARTICIPATION in the course can have a reflection in the overall final grade. Items such as attendance, attitude, sincerity, changes in performance, keypad scores, and “in-class” polling will be considered in borderline situations.

**ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS:**

In general, course attendance is recorded by means of polling, submitted quizzes, and punctually submitted laboratory work. Students who have missed 4 or more classes or labs AND are not passing with a grade of “C” or better by Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be considered in “non-pursuit” and may be administratively dropped from the course by the instructor. (No refunds!)

**ACCOMODATIONS:** The College of DuPage is committed to the equitable access of educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, As Amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation on the basis of an illness, injury, medical condition, or disability should contact the Center for Access and Accommodations to determine eligibility for accommodations and to obtain an official Letter of Accommodation. The Center for Access and Accommodations can be reached via email at

[access@cod.edu](mailto:access@cod.edu).

Students may also initiate a request for services by going to [www.cod.edu/access](http://www.cod.edu/access) and clicking on the green box labeled “complete form to request accommodations.” If you are already registered with the Center for Access and Accommodations, please email me your Letter of Accommodation as soon as possible. Please DO NOT send any private health documentation or doctor’s notes to me.

**LATE MATERIAL & MAKE-UPS:**

All quizzes and exams must be completed on the scheduled date at the time they are scheduled. There are no make-ups for any reason (except jury service or call to active military duty). If absent for either “one-hour” exam, then the % score of the final exam will be applied to one (and only one) missed exam.

All online homework must be submitted by the cut-off time and all laboratory homework must be submitted at the assigned time to receive maximum credit.

**RETURN POLICY:**

In general, every effort will be made to return work/provide feedback in a timely fashion usually within one week after submission.

#### WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

The last day to withdraw from this course without appeal is Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. After that date, students may file a *Petition for Late Withdrawal* through the Registration Office. A *Petition for Late Withdrawal* will be granted for extenuating circumstances only, including student illness, death in the immediate family, family emergencies, call to active duty, or other appropriate extenuating circumstances. The student will be required to provide appropriate documentation for all requests for late withdrawal. Students are strongly encouraged to speak to their instructor prior to withdrawing from this class.

As stated earlier, students who have missed 4 or more classes or labs AND are not passing with a grade of “C” or better by Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be considered in “non-pursuit” and risk being administratively dropped from the course. (No refunds!)

#### INCOMPLETE POLICY:

Under extraordinary circumstances (such as an extended medical emergency or family tragedy) a student currently earning “C” or better may not be able to complete all of the course requirements. In such instances, the student may petition the instructor for an “incomplete” grade. Only if the instructor deems the request as warranted will a contract agreement be made between the student and instructor as to how the course will be completed. After both the student and the instructor sign the contract, the student will receive a grade of “I”. Note: The course must be completed with the same instructor and within one calendar year of the end of the term for which the student was enrolled. If the student does not complete the requirements for the course as prescribed in the agreement, the “I” grade will automatically revert to a grade of “F.” It is advised that the students be fully aware of the consequences of receiving an incomplete grade and understand the terms described in the COD Catalog, p. 155: *Grade of Incomplete*.

#### CONDUCT & DISRUPTIONS:

It is expected that you are aware of and follow the guidelines for conduct as described in the COD Catalog, p. 162-163: *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. In particular, *Student Code of Conduct (Board Policy 20-35)*. Individuals that exhibit disruptive behaviors that interfere with the lectures and/or laboratory sessions will be removed from the class so that those individuals who wish to learn physics can do so. Those individuals removed must then conference with either the Dean or an Associate Dean in Natural & Applied Sciences Division. Those individuals may then rejoin the class pending the outcome of the conference.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic failure for the course. You will not be allowed to drop the class if you are found in violation of this section. It is expected that you are aware of and follow the guidelines for conduct as described in the COD Catalog, pp. 163-164: *Students Code of Academic Conduct (Board Policy 20-41)* and that you are aware of the definitions of the terms described therein. Also, the college will not tolerate discrimination or harassment. It is also expected that you are aware of and follow the guidelines for conduct as described in the COD Catalog, page 167: *Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Harassment (Board Policies 15-10 and 15-11)*.

## COMMUNICATION:

You should use email as a method to communication with me if my online office hours conflict with your schedule. You are strongly encouraged to ask questions about the syllabus during class time and virtual office hours. For more in-depth discussions (such as guidance on assignments) it is possible to set up a one-on-one zoom meeting. Such conversations should take place in person or over the phone rather than through email. This allows us to communicate more effectively and fosters a more collegial learning atmosphere.

GRADING is tentatively based on the following breakdown:

Homework:	200 points	A: > 900 points
Reading Quizzes:	200 points	B: > 800 points
Exam 1:	125 points	C: > 700 points
Exam 2:	125 points	D: > 600 points
Exam 3:	125 points	F: < 600 points
Final Exam:	225 points	

Depending on other factors involved with the course, it is possible for the grade cut-offs to be lowered by up to 50 pts., but do not count on it.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

### What Dr. Fazzini Expects from You:

- You will have read the syllabus.
- You will attend the (live) virtual lectures.
- You will be punctual to class.
- You do not make or receive telephone calls or text messages during class or lab sessions.
- You demonstrate respect for what I and your fellow students have to say.
- You will come to class prepared (notebook, pencils, calculator, etc.)
- You will come to class ready to ask and answer questions of substance on the day's topic(s).
- You will concentrate exclusively on this course during the class hours of this course.
- You will "check your entitlement at the door" and take responsibility for your own learning.

### What You Can Expect from Dr. Fazzini:

- I will be punctual to class.
- I will give each of you a fair share of my attention.
- I will work to make the class interesting and relevant.
- I will make myself available as a helpful resource outside of class.
- I will work to help you learn the material and perform at your best.
- I will be the sole arbiter of partial credit.
- I will grade the QUALITY of your work rather than the amount of time and effort you spent on it. (In other words, you will be assessed on your demonstrated performance rather than on anecdotal testimony.)

## TENTATIVE PHYSICS 1180 LECTURE SCHEDULE for Spring 2021 Semester

Week	Dates	Section(s)	Topic(s)
1	Jan. 25-27	Introduction	(Syllabus)
		1.1	Units, Measurement & Scientific Notation
2	Feb. 1-3	1.2	Kinematics
		1.3	Forces, Gravitation & Coulomb's Law
3	Feb. 8-10	1.4	Conservation Laws
			Momentum, Energy & Charge
4	Feb. 15-17	1.5	Wave Motion
			Interference & Standing Waves
5	Feb. 22-24	2.1	Einstein's Postulates of Special Relativity
		2.2	Time Dilation & Length Contraction
6	Mar. 1-3	Exam I	Sections 1.1-2.2
		2.3	Paradoxes
7	Mar. 8-10	2.4	Relativistic Mechanics
			Momentum & Energy
8	Mar. 15-17	2.5	Spacetime
		3.1	Photons & Matter Waves
9	Mar. 22-24	3.2	Bohr Model
		3.3	Quantum Mechanics
10	Mar. 29 – Apr. 2	NO CLASSES	SPRING BREAK
11	Apr. 5-7	Exam II	Sections 2.3-3.3
		4.1	Atoms & Periodic Table of Elements
12	Apr. 12-14	4.2	Radioactivity & Nuclear Reactions
		4.3	Elementary Particles & the Standard Model
13	Apr. 19-21	4.4	Interactions
			Feynman Diagrams
14	Apr. 26-28	5.1	Big Bang & Evolution of the Universe
			Stars, Galaxies & the Hubble Law
15	May 3-5	5.2	Blackbody Radiation
		5.3	Cosmic Background Radiation
16	May 10-12	Exam III	Sections 4.1-5.3
		5.4	Dark Matter & Dark Energy
17*	May 19	Final Exam	All covered material in Sections 1.1-5.4

\* Shortened week due to final exams.

Your first lecture takes place on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 PM.

There are NO CLASSES on the following dates:

Monday-Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Spring Break

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### **Detailed Topical Outline:**

1. Units and scientific measurement
2. Scientific notation
3. Kinematics (position, velocity, acceleration)
4. Forces
5. Universal gravitation and Coulomb's law
6. Conservation laws (energy, momentum, charge)
7. Momentum
8. Energy
9. Wave description and motion
10. Wave interference and standing waves
11. Einstein's postulates of special relativity
12. Time dilation and length contraction
13. Simultaneity
14. Twin paradox
15. Relativistic mechanics (energy, momentum, mass)
16. Spacetime
17. Wave-particle duality
18. Photons and the photoelectric effect
19. deBroglie hypothesis
20. Uncertainty principle
21. Quantum tunneling
22. Bohr model of the atom
23. Atoms and the periodic table
24. Radioactivity
25. Nuclear reactions
26. Fission and fusion
27. Elementary particles (hadrons and leptons)
28. Standard model
29. Interactions and Feynman diagrams
30. Big bang and evolution of the universe
31. Blackbody radiation and the cosmic microwave background
32. Dark matter and dark energy

### **Disclaimer:**

To the best of the instructor's knowledge, the information in this syllabus was correct and complete at the start of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of the College of DuPage, to make changes in the course content, instructional techniques or grading policy during the term. (Any changes would always be in favor of the student.) It is assumed that you have read this course syllabus. Your continued enrollment in this course means that you accept the terms and conditions outlined in this syllabus.