

College Physics I: PHYS 1301
Fall 2026 Syllabus

Lecture

Meeting Times: TR 12:30 PM to 13:45 PM — **Location:** WSB online

Instructor: Dr. Anirban Bhattacharjee

Office: WSB317 — **Email:** axb14ku@sulross.edu — **Office Hours:** MW 12-1PM, or by
appointment

Course Description:

College Physics -1 is an algebra based course in general physics. Emphasis is placed upon the concepts of physics rather than mathematical relationships. It provides a broad introduction to Physics including: (1) Kinematics; (2) Rotational Motion; (3) Wave; (4) Properties of Matter and Fluids;

Resources:**Required:**

<https://openstax.org/details/college-physics>

Loose-leaf paper – for in-class assignments

A simple scientific calculator

Optional:

College Physics (3rd Edition) by James Walker

Schaum's Outline of College Physics, 11th Edition (Schaum's Outline Series) by

Frederick Bueche & Eugene Hecht

Course Objectives:

The goals for this class are as follows:

- Appreciate the scientific process, how it works, the notion that physical laws are universal, the elements of scientific theories, what they do and do not tell us.
- Develop familiarity with the basic concept of Dynamics, Statics, Motion (translational and rotational), properties of matter and waves
- Describe how data is collected from experiments, and what quantities can be measured/inferred, and formulate conclusions from the results of those experiments.
- Understand basic - yet crucial - physical laws, and the processes that govern natural events
- Integrate concepts from maths and physics to explain relationships and able to converse with other students using proper scientific terminology.

Instructional Philosophy of the Course:

The overarching goals of this course are for you to understand the nature of science through the eyes of physics; to understand the big ideas in physics; and to develop a lifelong interest in physics and current events surrounding physics. To meet these three goals, the course instructors have carefully designed a sequence of learning tasks and assessment procedures as outlined below.

-Active engagement with nearly daily group activities. It is a demonstrated fact that you can only learn a limited amount of information from lecture alone, no matter how clear or entertaining. Therefore, this course is composed of a series of mini-lectures. In order to nurture a collaborative and productive environment, I will insist that **all cell phones, PDAs, blackberrys, etc.** be **turned off** during the class. Communication with the outside world during class will be considered disruptive and disrespectful to the rest of the students (and could also be considered cheating – see **Academic Honesty**). Anyone caught using any of these devices during class will be asked to **leave**.

-Attendance at all classes is expected and very strongly encouraged. Because this course is built around daily activities to accompany the lecture, your attendance and full participation at each class period will be an essential component of your success in the course. Periodically we will administer unscheduled questionnaires in class that will be collected during class and used to establish a participation grade. These questionnaires will not be given a letter or numeric grade, rather you will be given credit for what you complete on an all or nothing basis. I will be keeping attendance throughout the course, not necessarily for grading purposes (though good attendance can help you in borderline grade cases) but mostly because it is helpful for me when evaluating myself to know what attendance was like.

-Carefully studying the text is REQUIRED. The course mini-lectures are designed to focus on the really difficult aspects of Physics or to provide structure for your out-of-class study. You are accountable for all material, concepts, and interrelationships presented in the mini-lectures and the text. Therefore, it is imperative to your success in this course that you complete the assigned readings prior to coming to class. Reading assignments should be completed **BEFORE** the date listed. Otherwise, the mini-lectures and tutorials will be less useful in helping you develop a deep understanding of the course topics. It is important to remember that the exams or questionnaires will cover material from the text readings that may or may not be discussed in class.

Assessment and Grading:

In order to promote an active and collaborative learning environment, there will be no curve to assess grades. Each student will only be competing against themselves, and will be responsible for gaining the declarative knowledge and conceptual understanding for performance. This is a three credit class with three credits in the primary lecture section (§1).

The portion of the grade in the lecture section will come from two sources: (1) midterm exams and (2) Homework. Midterm exams will account for 50% of the final grade and be of any format oral or written. There will be at least four midterm exams. **The lowest score will be dropped.** There will be no make ups for the midterm exams.

The exams will test your understanding of key concepts in physics. A list of these concepts can be found in this syllabus. Along with each exam, we will also ask for opinions regarding what you like, dislike, and ask for suggestions for improving the class.

Homework will be 50% of the final grade.

As mentioned above in the **Instructional Philosophy of the Course** section, I will periodically ask you to write a short paragraph on loose-leaf paper in class on a topic of our choosing. The topic may be related to the assigned reading, to a current event in physics, or to a key concept covered in that class period. These will be collected and perused by the instructors. Answers demonstrating a command of the assigned reading or concepts will be given full credit. No numerical or letter grade will be assigned to these questionnaires. In cases of university-sanctioned excused absences (e.g., university athletics, religious holidays), it is up to you to inform me of the absence **well in advance of the date**, supplying both the dates and your name. If you have done so and there are quizzes on those dates, you will not be penalized for missing them.

The final grade will be computed using the scores from the top three midterm exams and homeworks in the following manner:

Grading Scheme	
Total Points	Grade
90–100	A
80–89.999...	B
70–79.999...	C
60.–69.999...	D
<59.9999	F

From the total points, letter grades will be assigned according to the table on the right. There will be no plus or minus grades assigned.

Students with disabilities: If you require any special accommodations to participate in the class or complete assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. The university is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA coordinator has the responsibility to

assist students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Counseling Center is located in Ferguson Hall room 112 and is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Academic Honesty:

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

"The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. 1. Cheating includes:

- a. Copying from another students test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as ones own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of anothers work or idea in ones own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty shall be the same as in other disciplinary actions, except that all academic dishonesty cases shall be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If, after reviewing the case, the faculty member believes that disciplinary action is necessary, he/she may recommend a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the academic department chair and, eventually, to the dean before imposition of the penalty. If the student does not accept the decision of the academic department chair or dean, the student may then follow the normal disciplinary procedures. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received substantive and procedural due process except as provided under Interim Disciplinary Action.

In addition, during the course of the semester, each student will be asked to carry out exercises in collaboration with other students. To nurture such an environment, we will consider any disruptive or disrespectful acts (such talking on a cell phone, or texting during class) to be a form of cheating. We consider academic dishonesty to be a serious offense and the maximum punishments allowed will be pursued in all scenarios. This includes completing any quizzes, or scantron forms with the help of another student or for scantron forms completed by another student who is not you. If similar work is submitted, all parties involved will receive a zero for their assignment. Make your work your own, be original.

ADA Statement

SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Student seeking accessibility services must contact ADA coordinator in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall 112 (432) 837-8203.

AI Policy :

The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

This course assumes that work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups as directed by class assignment instructions. This policy indicates the following constitute violations of academic honesty: a student has another person/entity do the work of any substantive portion of a graded assignment for them, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, and/or using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT). In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions, please contact me. All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with this course, from student-based brainstorming to project development, will prepare you for success in your degree pathway and, ultimately, a competitive career. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact me.

The emergence of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT and DALL-E) has sparked interest among many students in our discipline. The use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with your instructor, the potential for generative AI tools to provide automatic feedback, assistive technology and language assistance is clearly developing. Please feel free to reach out to me well in advance of the due date of assignments for which you may be using generative AI tools and I will be happy to discuss what is acceptable.

In this course, students shall give credit to AI tools whenever used, even if only to generate ideas rather than usable text or illustrations. When using AI tools on assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange, highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used (e.g. ChatGPT private subscription version or DALL-E free version), (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, turns of phrase, elements of text, long stretches of text, lines of argument, pieces of evidence, maps of the conceptual territory, illustrations of key concepts, etc.); (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to handle mounting stress, to clarify prose, to translate text, to experiment for fun, etc.). Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations, or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed. Overall, AI tools should be used wisely and reflectively with an aim to deepen understanding of subject matter.

It is a violation of university policy to misrepresent work that you submit or exchange with your instructor by characterizing it as your own, such as submitting responses to assignments that do not acknowledge the use of generative AI tools. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about the use of generative AI tools before submitting any content that has been substantially informed by these tools.

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Assignments, and Exams

Date	Topic/Assignments
Week 1 – Introductions	
	Introductions, Physics Survey, Popsicles, Office Hours, Tour of Universe Discussion of Syllabus, Day-to-day class structure Math Review, Section 3 — http://www.astronomynotes.com/mathrev/s3.htm http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_notation http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_large_numbers Trigonometry, Vectors
Week 2 – Kinematics	
	Introduction to Kinematics, Motion in 1-d Newton's Law of Motion http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newton's_laws_of_motion
Week 3 – Kinematics cont.	
	Motion in 2d Motion in 2d-projectile
Week 4 – Work, Energy, Momentum	
	Work, Energy, Linear Momentum & conservation law https://www.khanacademy.org/science/physics/linear-momentum https://www.khanacademy.org/science/physics/work-and-energy
Week 5 – Review and Midterm Exam	
	Review Session Mid-term 1
Week 6 – Gravity Circular Motion	
	Static Equilibrium, Friction, Tension http://www.astronomynotes.com/gravappl/chindex.htm Newton's Laws of Gravity
Week 7 – Circular Motion	
	Rotational Motion 1d , Rotational Kinematics, Center of Mass, Moment of Inertia
Week 8 – Circular Motion and Review	
	Conservation of Angular Momentum and Rotational Kinetic Energy. Review

Date	Topic/Assignments
	Week 9 – Mid Term and Waves
	Mid-term
	Wave Propagation, Sound , Oscillation
	Week 10 – Waves and Thermodynamics
	Simple Harmonic Motion, Doppler Shift
	Different methods, Behavior of material with temperature
	Week 11 – Thermodynamics
	Modes of heat transfer
	Thermodynamics equilibrium
	Week 12 –Thermodynamics and Fluids
	Blackbody Radiation
	Fluids
	Week 13 – Review and Midterm
	Exams
	Week 14
	Viscosity
	Presentations
	Finals