

WebAssign information – PHYS 218

Fall 2016

Labs will be done this semester using WebAssign. Each consists of a Pre-Lab, an In-Lab and a Post-lab component, all of which will be done online.

Getting started

Go to www.webassign.net/tamu/login.html and login with your NetID and password. WebAssign will open at the **Home** tab. Click on the **My Classes** drop-down menu at the top-right and select your PHYS 218 section (it is probably your only option). This will take you to the WebAssign **Notices** page where you will be asked how you want to pay for WebAssign. The online cost is \$36.50. You are given three options:

1. **purchase access online** – this will take you to a page where you can purchase the access code with a credit or debit card for \$36.50.
2. **enter an access code (purchased with textbook or from a bookstore)** – these do not come with the Young and Freedman textbook, however you can buy them from the MSC Bookstore for \$48.65 (or \$36.50 if you can find a “used” one).
3. **continue my trial period (xx days remaining)** – WebAssign offers a grace period where you can have full access without paying. Before the grace period ends, you will have to pay for continue access using one of the two options above.

Once you have access

From your homepage, you have access to the lab manual either via the **My eBooks** tab at the top of the page, or through the link in the **About this Class** box at the bottom-right. The online-only lab manual is *Physics Labs for Scientists and Engineers – Mechanics – 1st edition*. Read the policies and rules regarding labs in the **Laboratory Information** tab under **LAB RESOURCES**. Below that are the lab manuals for each experiment. They will become available to you as the semester progresses.

Associated with each experiment are three parts: a Pre-Lab assignments before each lab, the In-Lab component where you do the actual experiment, and a Post-Lab assignment which follows up what you did in the lab. You should like not having to do formal lab reports, and the immediate feedback you get as you enter data during the In-Lab portion is very beneficial. The Pre-Lab and Post-Lab components will help connect what is being done in the laboratories to what is being covered in the lectures and on exams. For all parts you get 5 attempts at answering each question. During the lab, submit your answers often since many entries build upon previous ones; you don't want to get to the end just to find out there was a mistake from the beginning!

Be sure to read all the material for a given experiment before starting the Pre-Lab. The lab manual covers the theory you'll need to know for the Pre-Lab, and outlines the procedure you'll follow in the lab. You may want to download and print the worksheet for the procedure and bring it to the lab with you as a reference; however, you will not hand in this form when completing your lab (it is all done online). Also, be sure to read the appendix in the lab manual. It explains how to use Excel to draw graphs and find the best-fit straight line to data, and talks about errors, uncertainties and error propagation.

Availability and due dates

- The Pre-Lab will be available to you starting at the end of the previous lab period. When you first sign up, you should have immediate access to the first experiment's Pre-Lab. This component is due 15 minutes before the start of that week's recitation.
- The In-Lab, as the name implies, will be available to you only during the lab period.
- The Post-Lab assignment will be available immediately following the lab period, and is due 30 minutes before the start of the following week's recitation.

System Requirements

WebAssign is tested and supported for the following Web browsers:

- Mozilla® Firefox®, version 12 or later – Windows®, Mac® OS X, Linux®
- Internet Explorer®, version 8 or later – Windows
- Google® Chrome™, version 19 or later – Windows, Mac OS X
- Apple® Safari®, version 5.1 or later – Mac OS X, iOS 5 or later on iPad®, Windows¹

Configure the following settings on your browser:

- Allow cookies and pop-up windows from www.webassign.net
- If you are accessing WebAssign from Blackboard, accept third-party cookies
- Do not allow your browser to store your WebAssign password

Customer Support

- Online help: http://www.webassign.net/manual/student_guide/index.html
- Call: (800)955-8275
- Submit a [customer support request](#)

The WebAssign Customer Support staff **cannot**:

- Change your username or password
- Give extensions
- Change your score
- Give you extra submissions
- Help you with the content of assignments
- Resolve problems with PayPal payments

PayPal Support

For payment problems, contact PayPal at www.paypal.com or 1-402-935-2050.

¹ MarvinSketch is not supported for Safari on Windows.