

eCampus Stuff for ASTR/PHYS 109¹

Online Quizzes, Pre-Lecture Reading Questions and Papers

Last updated 9/6/2017

1. Overview stuff

All the online work in this course will be done using the eCampus system. ECampus is an online system used for all A&M students (known by some people as eLearning, WebCT, or Blackboard Vista). You will login using your NetID. To access it you will go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>.

Within the course we will use in a number of different ways (see footnotes for everything other than quizzes). Specifically for:

- Papers²
 - Peerceptiv
 - TurnItIn
- Pre-Lecture Reading Questions (PLRQ)³
 - TurnItIn⁴
- Quizzes:
 - warm-up quizzes
 - End-of-Chapter (EOC) quizzes
- Other:
 - Announcements
 - Grades

1.1 Technical Questions

Q: How do I log in eCampus and access the course?

A: Go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>, then click on "Log in" button after which you will be asked for your NetID and password. Once you log in eCampus successfully, you should see a list of courses which are available to you, including this course.

Q: Do all browsers work for eCampus?

A: Nope, but which ones do changes over time. Click on the **Check Browser** button to check.

Q: What if I'm having trouble getting into eCampus?

A: A&M provides support for using eCampus. You can go to any <http://oalinfo.tamu.edu/> Open Access Lab or the <http://hdc.tamu.edu/> Helpdesk in Teague, or call the helpdesk at 979-854-8300

Q: How do I get back to the text of the questions and all the answer options

A: This is described below, on page 3.

¹ This document is at http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf

² For more go to http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/WritingAssignments/Papers_and_Peerceptiv.pdf

³ For more go to http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/PLRQ_Guidelines.pdf

⁴ For more go to <http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/WritingAssignments/InstructionsforTurnitin.shtml>

2. Warm-up and End-of-Chapter Quizzes

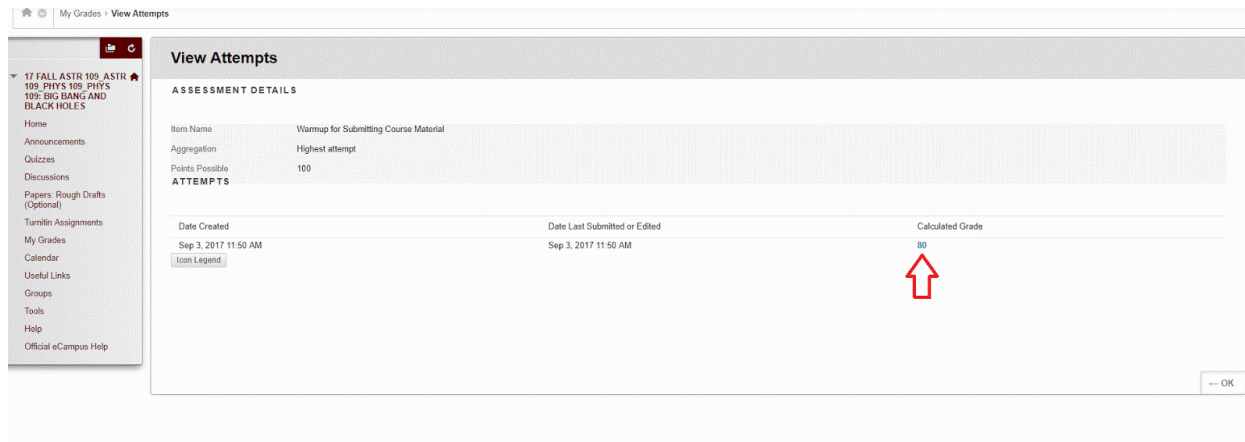
The first set of quizzes you will see are in the “Required Warm-ups” Folder in eCampus. These are designed to be easy and help you get good at eCampus before we do things which count for a grade. The bad news is you need to get a 100% on all of them. The good news is that you get unlimited attempts to do so (although we limit the number attempts you get before you need to ask for help; for more see below), and there is feedback for each question. After you get a 100% on the first one, the next one will open up for you. This is described in more detail in the quiz instructions themselves on ecampus. These quizzes do not count for a grade. The exception to these rules is the Astronomy Misconception Survey which is designed to tell us how much you know coming into the course. You only get one attempt; just do the best you can. Again, it won’t count as part of your grade.

When these are done, the End-Of-Chapter Quizzes folder becomes available. These are designed to help ensure you have a good knowledge of some of the important facts for each chapter. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “End-of-Chapter Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is for Chapter 2 (no Chapter 1 quiz). Note that the EOC quizzes are only due AFTER we finish the chapter in lecture. As with the warm-up quizzes, you must get a 100% to pass it and you get unlimited attempts (modulo the same caveat above). After you have gotten a 100% I will only count your best score.

You get unlimited attempts, but to discourage guessing if you use more than 5 attempts you will have to request more. Below you will find specific instructions on how to request more attempts; following the proper format helps us help you.

3: Getting Help/More Attempts for Quizzes in eCampus

To help you do well on the quizzes we have added feedback for the quiz questions. In eCampus click on "My Grades" > find the assignment > click on "calculated grades" (Be careful, this is NOT in the quizzes folder, but on the left side of the screen)



The attempt result will open and show all the information, including your answers and feedback. If there isn't feedback, let us know and we'll add some

If you run out of attempts for an eCampus quiz, warm-up or EOC quizzes, you should follow the instruction here

3.1 Instructions on the proper format to send your request

Send an email at 109help@physics.tamu.edu. There are 7 pieces of information we are looking for, and they can be thought of as being in 4 separate pieces. They are:

1. The name of the quiz you are having trouble with, and the question number
2. The full text of the question you are struggling with
3. For the next four pieces of information, which are about each of the Yes/No options listed in the quiz question, put all four pieces of information on a single line (like in the examples below):
 - 3.1. The number of each option which requires a Yes/No answer
 - 3.2. The text of each option which requires a Yes/No answer
 - 3.3. The Yes/No answer you put for each of the options
 - 3.4. A sentence on WHY you picked Yes or No for that option. Often telling us why you picked a No for an option is more helpful than why you picked a Yes for a different one
4. A Copy/Paste of the feedback from eCampus itself (if any) that the quiz gives you when it tells you go didn't get the question right. If there isn't feedback, just say so.

With these pieces of information we can usually figure out what is causing you to struggle (and will usually just give you two more attempts). Then again, maybe you are correct and we need to fix it in eCampus! If that's the case, we'll give you extra credit! Either way, please DON'T include any other information from eCampus as that will only make it harder to figure out how to help you.

3.2: Examples of excellent emails

For a warm-up quiz:

Hello,

I've run out of attempts of Requirements Quiz 2, and would like to request more. I'm struggling with Question 7

"Which assignments require you to get all the parts exactly correct in order to get a passing score? (select all that apply). Hint: Some assignments require you to get all the parts exactly correct to get a Passing grade. Some assignments require you to get a minimum score (<100%) in order to get a Passing grade. While it's true that when you get a Pass for an assignment we will give 100% of the *points*, but that isn't the same as getting all the parts of the assignment exactly correct."

1. Warm-up and requirements quizzes - **Yes**. All of these require getting every question correct.
2. An End Of Chapter Quiz for every chapter (except Chapter 1) - **Yes**. All of these require getting every question correct.
3. PLRQ Unit 1 assignment - **No**. While it's true we have to pass this assignment, we don't have to get all the parts exactly correct.
4. Paper 1 assignment - **No**. This isn't pass/fail. We don't need to get it perfect.
5. Astronomy Misconception Survey (AMS) - **No**. This isn't pass/fail. We don't need to get it perfect.

Feedback: "By now you should have realized that all the warm-up quizzes (except AMS) require a perfect score, but you don't need to get a perfect score to pass all the assignments in the class. Bottom line: just because you have to Pass an assignment, that doesn't mean you need to get all the parts exactly correct."

For an End-of-Chapter quiz

Howdy,

I'm struggling with End of Chapter quiz Chapter 3, Question 12

"Which of the following are thought of as a composite particle? Select all that apply?"

1. Atom - **Yes**. Atoms are composed of protons, neutrons and electrons
2. Quark - **No**. Quarks are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
3. Electron - **No**. Electrons are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
4. Neutrino - **No**. Neutrinos are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
5. Proton - **Yes**. Protons are composed of quarks.
6. Photon - **No**. Photons are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
7. Neutron - **Yes**. Neutrons are composed of quarks.

Feedback: Hint: Any particle that is not a fundamental particle must be a composite particle.

Help for Warm-up Quizzes on how to ask for more help:

Since many people struggle with the eCampus quiz on “How to ask for help/additional attempts for eCampus Quizzes” here is a good example format for you to follow. Pay attention to the answers. (Note that this takes two pages)

Hi,

I'm really struggling with question #2 on “How to ask for help/additional attempts for eCampus quizzes 2”

Here is in the text (put in italics to make your life easier)

Evaluate this sample e-mail:

In need more attempts for Requirements 2 Quiz.

This is the one I had trouble on:

How is each Peerceptiv assignment graded?

Selected Answers:

3.

Answers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Here's why I chose my answers:

I chose No for question one because that can't be correct..

For question 2 I chose no because those aren't the right numbers.

For question three I said Yes because those are the right numbers

For question four I said no because I didn't think anything was weighted that way.

For question five I said no because I didn't think anything was weighted that way.

Response Feedback: Careful. Take a look at

http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf for more hints.

After reading the feedback I realized my answers were wrong. Here are my revised answers and why I now am picking each:

1. Does it have the name of the quiz and the question number? - **No**. It has the quiz name, but not the question number.
2. Does it have the full text of the question? - **Yes**. It is there.
3. Does it have a single line that contains each of the following 1) The option number, 2) The original question text, 3) the Yes/No answer, and 4) Why that answer was picked? If any are missing, or not on the same line choose No. - **No**. It has the option number, but not all the information is on the same line. That makes it hard to figure out what's going on.
4. Does it have a Copy/Paste of the feedback from eCampus itself (if any) that the quiz gives you when it tells you you didn't get the question right. If there isn't feedback, just say so. (This may include links or only links) - **Yes**. The feedback is there.

Here is the feedback the quiz gave me:

Not quite. The person submitting this email made your life REALLY difficult and it's hard to tell what is here and what isn't here. It's very clear that the person sending this email hasn't read the instructions. For example, the option numbers ARE there, but they are buried where it is hard to find them. They certainly don't have the option number on the same line with the text of the option, their Yes/No answers and WHY they picked them.

To help you, the full list of things needed are on page 3 of http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf. Looking at the examples on page 4 will help you identify the differences between what is here (which is really bad) and what a good submission looks like.

You can see why getting lots of emails like this from over one hundred students is a serious problem for the instructors. Use font changes and space wisely. Don't include lots of information, like "Answers" and "Selected" in your email, they clutter up the email and aren't needed. You can see why we don't want them.