eCampus Stuff for ASTR/PHYS 109

Online Quizzes, Pre-Lecture Reading Questions and Papers

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 & TurnItIn³
- Pre-Lecture Reading Questions (PLRQ)⁴: PLRQ Quizzes TurnItIn
- 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. Some people have trouble with Safari on a Mac. We’ve had no problems in the Open Access Labs, we recommend going there if you are having trouble on your Mac or phone.

Q: What if I'm having trouble getting into eCampus, or my quiz/Peerceptiv/TurnItIn isn’t working?
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/feedback if I need to email 109help for more attempts?
A: This is described below, on page 3.

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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/WritingAssignments/InstructionsforTurnitin.shtml
⁴ For more go to http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/PLRQ_Guidelines.pdf
2. Warm-up, Pre-Lecture Reading Questions (PLRQ) and End-of-Chapter (EOC) Quizzes

2.1 Warmup Quizzes

The first set of quizzes you will see are in the “Required Warm-ups” Folder in eCampus. They are:

1. General warmup and Astronomy Misconception Survey (AMS)\(^5\)
2. How To Ask For Help/Additional Attempts for eCampus Quizzes (3 parts)
3. Requirements quizzes
4. Peerceptiv help quizzes

These quizzes do not count for a grade, but are required. They are designed to be easy (if you have fully read the instructions and http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/CourseOrganization.pdf) and help you get good at eCampus before we do things which do 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. The one exception is the Astronomy Misconception Survey (AMS) quiz. It also doesn’t count but you just get one attempt since we just want to know how much you know about astronomy coming into the course. Just do the best you can.

2.2 PLRQ Quizzes

When these are done with the Warmup quizzes, the PLRQ Quizzes folder becomes available. There is one quiz per Unit (there are 6 units in the book) and it is designed to help you with both the reading BEFORE lecture and get you to be good at thinking about how to ask Scientific questions. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “PLRQ Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is for Unit 1. Note that the PLRQ quizzes are typically due BEFORE we start the first chapter in the unit in lecture (obviously this will not be true for Unit 1). While you are required to get a 100% on Unit 1, you are NOT required to get a 100% on any of the others. For them, we will give you unlimited attempts to get as high a score as you like, and we will only count your best score. Again we limit the number of attempts you get before you need to ask for help; for more see below.

2.3: End of Chapter (EOC) Quizzes

After you have gotten a 100% on your Unit 1 PLRQ quiz, the End-Of-Chapter Quizzes folder becomes available. There is one or more quizzes per chapter, and they are designed to help ensure you have a good knowledge of some of the important facts for each chapter for use in later chapters. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “End-of-Chapter Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is a quiz about asking for more attempts (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 80% to pass it and you get unlimited attempts (modulo the same caveat above). Only your best score will be counted as part of your grade.

A quick comment on the number of attempts: We want to give you unlimited attempts to both maximize your learning and allow you to maximize your score. However, we need to discourage guessing. For this reason, 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.

\(^5\) AMS does not require you to get a 100%. We just want to see what you know. You only get one try, so please do the best you can.
3: Getting Help/More Attempts for Quizzes in eCampus

3.1 How to get back the text of the question, options and Feedback after you have taken any quiz

Since requesting more attempts requires you to go back and get a copy of the quiz question, the options and the feedback you will need to get that. To get at it, 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)

![View Attempts](image)

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

3.2 Instructions on the proper format to send your request

Since you may need more attempts for any type of quiz (Warmup, PLRQ or EOC), to get more attempts you will need to send a More Attempts Request email at 109help@physics.tamu.edu which uses a Required format. In this email we want you to tell us which question you did not get right, and that you have used the feedback to figure out what the correct answer is. What we want to see, before giving you more attempts, is that you now know what the correct answer is. In your email tell us the CORRECT answer is, and why, using the format below. The big picture is to take the answer options given in the quiz and then give a Yes or No answer for each. For the answer that is correct (which you should be able to figure out via the feedback) put Yes and then tell why you picked it. For all the others say why this one would not be the correct one. Be sure to put 'Yes' for the correct answer instead of the one that you picked initially.

There are 7 pieces of information we need from you, and they can be thought of as being in 4 separate pieces. Since we get HUNDREDS of these emails we require a special format for them (which you can send to us directly, or use the Worksheet7). Please DON’T include any other information from eCampus as that will only make it harder to figure out how to help you. For example, we do NOT want to see your Selected Answer(s), so please don’t copy/paste them from eCampus.

Before describing each of the pieces, it is useful to say what we mean when you use the words Question and Option. Each quiz has a number of Questions. Within each question there are a number of Options where you have to indicate a Yes/No answer. If you aren’t going to use the Worksheet, the REQUIRED format is:

1. The name of the quiz you are having trouble with, and the question number

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6 Feel free to ask a question to help you understand even if you don’t need more attempts.
7 http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/RequestingAttemptsWorksheet.xlsx
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) in the following order:
   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 think is the correct one each of the options (we don’t need to know what you previously picked)
   3.4. A sentence on WHY you think the Yes or No for that option is the correct one. 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, in this format, we can usually easily figure out from your More Attempts Request what is causing you to struggle.\(^8\) If you want to tell us what you originally put and/or why, that’s fine but put that AFTER your correct Yes/No & Why answer so we can tell easily which is which. Parenthesis works nicely for this.

3.3 What happens after you have submitted your Request for More Attempts

After you have submitted a More Attempts Request, you will get a response back. If we can tell you completely understand (you gave all the correct Yes/No answers and a correct Why), then we will just give you more attempts so you can get a 100% on the quiz on your next try.

Sometimes from your answer it’s clear you don’t understand everything yet (usually because you didn’t carefully read the feedback). In this case, we are happy to help even though you may find this frustrating. Since what we want is for you to understand completely we will often send you a response which asks leading questions to help you understand. If there is more than one problem we will only comment about one of them. The goal is not to help you improve your score, but to improve your understanding (so you can improve your score). After you have received an email back from us you have two options: 1) You send us a Revised Request for More Attempts, but this time with the correct Yes/No and Why answers, or 2) You continue the email dialogue until you come to understand the correct answer, and THEN submitted a Revised Request. Either way Revised Request should have the same format as the original request and should start a new email chain. That will make it easier for us to help you.

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\(^8\) 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!
3.3: Three examples of excellent emails

3.3.1 For an End-of-Chapter quiz:

Note how simple this format is. There is no extra information and it is easy to tell if they really understood. They followed ALL the instructions and made the TA's life easy. The full text of the original question is given. Each answer option is listed with a number, the option is given, the Yes or No is bolded (a nice touch), and the WHY is very clear. The Feedback is cleanly copied and pasted.

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Howdy,
I'm struggling with End of Chapter quiz Chapter 3, Question 12
The question is: "Which of the following are thought of as a composite particle? Select all that apply?"
The answer options are:
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.
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3.3.2 For a PLRQ Unit Quiz: (Note we have used the Worksheet from http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/FCampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf for this example)

Some things to note. The student did an excellent job by copying the ENTIRE set of feedback, not just the part that they thought was relevant. They also gave a good reason for each answer option, most importantly why they chose No for a number of the options.

Page 1 from a printed .pdf version

Note: This is an interactive work sheet. You should have an entry for each box that is yellow. You can print it to .pdf or email the excel file to

Instructions on how to fill out this sheet can be found here (page 2) (Last updated 1/21/2018 D. Toback)

Tell us your name
See Student
Tell us the question number
Tell us how many option-answers there are

Has there ever been an exact answer as to why retrograde motion occurs?

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 “No feedback”.

Feedback on question quality: This question is NOT ACCEPTABLE because it asks a question that was directly answered on page 25 in Figure 4.2. This question shows that the person did not read the assigned material or if they did, misread the captions and figures.

Feedback on the answer: Retrograde motion occurs because of the motion of planets with respect to earth. Refer to Figure 4.2 for a detailed description with pictures.

Information about the option-answers in the quiz that you will either click or not click (Yes/No)

Excell

The correct Yes/No answer
WHY that is the correct answer

This is too close to something answered in the book.

A Copy/Paste of the test of option-answer 1

Good

The correct Yes/No answer
WHY that is the correct answer

This is too close to something answered in the book.

A Copy/Paste of the test of option-answer 2

Borderline

The correct Yes/No answer
WHY that is the correct answer

This is too close to something answered in the book.

A Copy/Paste of the test of option-answer 3

Bad

The correct Yes/No answer
WHY that is the correct answer

This is too close to something answered in the book.

A Copy/Paste of the test of option-answer 4

Not Acceptable

The correct Yes/No answer
WHY that is the correct answer

It was answered directly in the book on page 25.
3.3.3 For a “How To Ask for More Help Quiz” Quiz:

Since many people struggle with the format of how to request additional attempts, we have created quizzes with BAD examples students students so you can see what kind of difficult emails the TA’s get. Here we want YOU to identify (as if you were the TA) what was done correctly and what was not done correctly. The quiz is where you tell us what was done correctly and what was not done correctly.

Since students struggle with these quizzes, we want to give you an example of how to request more attempts for them (yes... this is complicated). PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GOOD REQUEST FOR A QUIZ WHERE YOU ARE ASKED TO EVALUATE A BAD REQUEST. This is taken from the Warmup Quizzes, Part II “How to ask for help/additional attempts for eCampus Quizzes.”

In this example the quiz question you are being asked to evaluate the text. Within our example below we have put the text from eCampus in RED ITALICS, and the example of the correct way to request additional attempts is WRITTEN IN BLUE. Note that this example starts on page 6, and ends on 7.

To spell it out super explicit: You want to specify what quiz and what question number. That’s the first blue part. Then you want to give the FULL question from eCampus. That’s ALL the stuff in Red. Then you get back to YOUR content. This is where you LIST the options (in this example there are 4 options), and give your Yes/No and Why answer for each. Then after you are done with that, you give the feedback from the original quiz. Put in Purple.

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Hi,

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

Here is the text of the question (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.


***************
After reading the feedback I realized my answers were wrong. Here are my revised answers to all the answer options 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 go 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.“