

eCampus Stuff for ASTR/PHYS 109¹

Online Quizzes, Pre-Lecture Reading Questions and Papers

Last updated 1/16/2019

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.

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.

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

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

When these are done 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. Note that the PLRQ quizzes are due BEFORE we start the first chapter in the unit in lecture. You are NOT required to get a 100% on these quizzes. 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 attempts you get before you need to ask for help; for more see below.

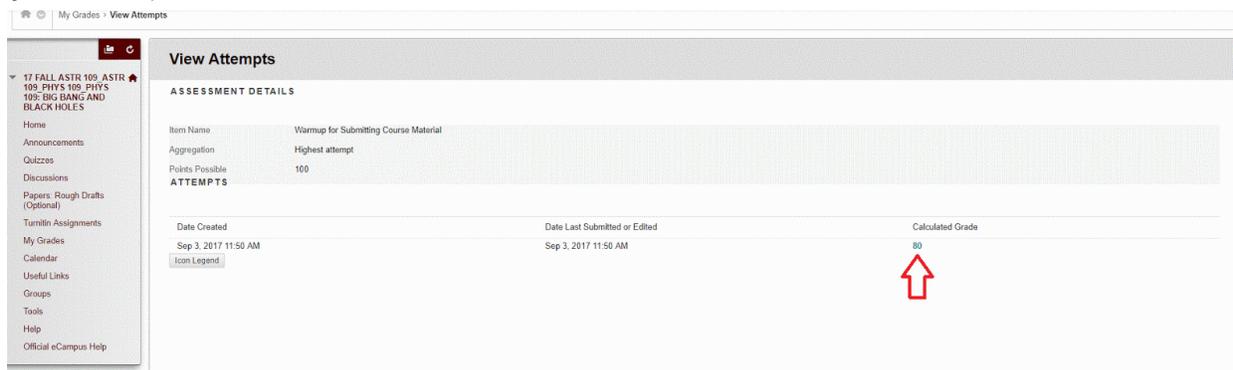
After you have finished your first Unit 1 quiz, the End-Of-Chapter Quizzes folder becomes available. There is one or more quizzes per chapter, and they are designed to help ensure you have a good knowledge of some of the important facts for each chapter for use in later chapters. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “End-of-Chapter Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is 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.

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.

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*)



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. 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 is⁵. 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. 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 Worksheet⁶). 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. The format is:

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

⁵ Feel free to ask a question to help you understand first to get help. That just isn't a More Attempts Request

⁶ <http://people.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/RequestingAttemptsWorksheet.xlsx>

- 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.⁷ 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.

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. 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. In this case, you have two options. Either you can send email responses and we'll have a dialogue for you to learn more until you come to understand the correct answer, you you send us a Revised Request for More Attempts. A Revised Request should have the format described above, and essentially start a new email chain. That will make it easier for us to help you.

⁷ 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: Examples of excellent emails

Note, we have not included an example for a PLRQ quiz yet, but those should follow the same format.

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 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.