Quick Sanity Check

Howdy!
Are you in the right class?

• Introduction to Classical Mechanics
• Physics 218
• STEPS
Just getting started...

• I like enjoying class, so I’ll work hard for this to be fun (tough at 8AM!)
• I want everyone to do well and get good grades
• I’ll also teach you how to get good grades (Still... it’s a lot of work)
• We’ll take a joke-break during class, and I’ll show short video clips at the beginning
  - Please send me new material and I’ll do my best to use it in class
Start with our thought for the day…

What it’s like to sit in an 8AM physics lecture…
Overview of Today’s Class

• Syllabus and Other Handouts on my WebPage

• Problem Solving

• Your “homework” before next lecture
Big Picture

- Textbook
  - “Don’t Panic”, 5th Edition
- There is a both a recitation and a laboratory for this course
  - First meeting is tomorrow!
  - Reading BEFORE lab!
Handouts on my WebSite

faculty.physics.tamu.edu/toback/218

By the next class you need to read:

• Laboratory notes
• WebCT/Homework instructions
  - More on this later...
• Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

You can also find:

• Exam schedule
• Lecture notes
Grades

- Final: 35%
- 3 in-class Exams: 13% each
- HW, lect. and recitation Quizzes: 20%
- Laboratory: 6%

I will curve all the exam scores AFTER the final, but will try to give feedback along the way

Most of your grade will be based on your ability to solve problems
Problem Solving
Problem Solving

• The heart of this course is **problem solving**
• One of the great things about the textbook is the problems
  - They are **ALL** important
  - Spend your time learning how to solve all of them!
  - They’re hard, but they’re worth it
• Your reward for doing them? You’ll
  - Do well in the course
  - Realize why physics is so interesting
  - Realize why engineering makes you take this course in the first place!
Problem Solving Feedback

This course is designed to help you become an excellent problem solver and give you lots of feedback and help along the way.

WebCT, Recitation and Exams will provide feedback.
WebCT and Recitation Problems

• Math quizzes: Using WebCT. Are you prepared mathematically for the course? If not, WebCT will tell you where you need help.

• Homework and HW quizzes: Will use WebCT to give more feedback.

• Recitation quizzes: Work with others to solidify your understanding of the material.
Math and Math Quizzes

• Studies show that you need to be good at the math to solve physics problems

• Are you ready for this course? Log into WebCT and take (finish?) your math quizzes before Thursday’s lecture
  
  - These are timed; will take at least an hour
  
  - Bring paper and a pencil
Extra Credit

- When you get a 100 on all the math and HW quizzes for the exam you will EARN THE RIGHT to take a WebCT mini-practice exam
- Take as many as you like to study!
- If you get a 100, before the in-class exam, you’ll get 5 bonus points on the exam
- One available for each in-class exam
- Students who do take it typically do ~30 points better than those who don’t
Speaking of Exams

3 Exams and a Final

- Closed book (formulas, if needed, will be provided)

- Problems will be very similar to those on homework and recitation
Other Requirements
Requirements

In order to pass this course you must:

• Take all the exams and the final
• Pass the Laboratory
Due dates coming up

• Week 1 (This week):
  - Lecture: Chapter 1 (Reading, but nothing due)
  - Recitation & Lab: Chapter 1 and Lab 1 (A&B)
  - Homework due: None

• Week 2 (Next week):
  - Homework (Monday): Math quizzes
  - Lecture: Chapter 2
  - Recitation & Lab: Chapter 1 and Lab 2

• Week 3 (The week after that):
  - Homework due (Monday): Chapter 1
  - Lecture: Chapter 3 & 4
  - Recitation: Chapter 2 and Lab 3

• Etc..
Any Questions?

I’ve compiled a list of frequently asked question and their answers and put it on my web site.
You should read that before next class.
There might be a quiz...
Checklist for next time:

1. Download the Laboratory handouts and go to your Recitation/Lab tomorrow
2. Download the WebCT instructions
3. Get a Neo account (if you don’t have one already), read your email and log into WebCT
4. Take the free warm-up and evaluation quizzes
5. Start (finish???) your math quizzes
6. Read Chapter 1 in the text book
7. Start working on your Ch. 1 homework problems
8. Download the Frequently Asked Questions handout and read

Can’t remember all this? A copy of all my lecture notes are on my website.
Next Time:

Next lecture:
• We’ll cover chapter 1 and probably 2

For Next Tuesday:
• Read Chapter 2

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