Laboratory Information

Safety

Students must follow all posted safety rules and precautions and those announced by the TA.

There are signs posted in the lab rooms and in the hallways leading to the lab rooms that state: **NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE PHYSICS LABORATORY.** This means—sandwiches, chips, sodas, drinking water bottles, etc must be kept outside the lab room at all times. This is a safety issue and a safety rule that the TAs will strictly enforce.

Other safety information includes: No unauthorized experiments in the laboratory; No horse play in the laboratory; Shoes must be worn in the lab room; No roller blades, bikes, skateboards allowed in the lab room; No students allowed in the lab room without a TA present.

Note - Before a student is allowed to enter and participate in the laboratory experiments in a laboratory room, the Laboratory Safety Agreement (LSA) found in Howdy during registration for the course must be signed. Failure to comply with this requirement means that a student is barred from the lab room until such time that the agreement is signed. The agreement is shown below.

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By signing this form, I verify that I have read, understood, and agreed to follow the safety regulations required of this course, as established by the Department of Physics and Texas A&M University. No drinks, food, or tobacco products are allowed in the laboratory room. While in the laboratory room, improper conduct or horseplay that may endanger others or me will not be tolerated. No unauthorized experiments are to be performed in the laboratory. I agree to follow any other instructions given by the laboratory instructor.

I may be dismissed from the laboratory for failure to comply with stated safety regulations. If I am dismissed for safety violations, I will be awarded a zero for the day’s work and will not be allowed to make up the work.

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In addition-

A periodic walk through all of the lab sessions will be done during the semester to ensure that safety procedures are being followed. Violations of safety protocols will be noted and steps taken to correct the problem (see 2nd paragraph in LSA above).
Emergencies - In case of an emergency and the emergency alert is activated, directions will be announced on the loud speakers.

The evacuation routes are shown on a plaque located near the two elevators on the 2nd floor of this building. If an evacuation is required, follow the evacuation routes and proceed to the meeting place that is announced by the TA.

**Lab Room**

Note- students must wait outside the lab room until the TA comes and opens the door.

If a recitation instructor or lab TA does not show up (within 15 minutes of the starting time), contact the staff in room 224. Efforts will be made to contact the instructor of that section.

All students must be registered for the Physics course in order to attend any lab sessions. If the student’s name does not appear on the class roster for the course, that student may not attend lab until properly registered. If a student drops the course, he or she may not continue attending the lab.

**Lab Session**

Students must not misuse the equipment. If the equipment is not working, let the TA know immediately. If the TA finds that the lab procedure is not the cause of the problem, the TA will try to find a substitute set of equipment to use. Students should not take any equipment from another table without permission from the TA. If equipment is moved, it should be returned at the end of the lab session. In any case, equipment may not be taken out of the lab room.

Students should ensure that all the experimental equipment and supplies are left in a neat order on the lab table before leaving the lab room. If an outline sheet of paper with symbols of the apparatus used in the lab experiment is taped to the lab table, be sure to return all the apparatus parts to this sheet. The lab chairs should also be replaced in their proper place under the table. This will make it easier for the next group of lab students that use the workstation.

**Lab Report**

The lab TA will discuss the methods to use in preparing the lab report and how it will be graded. The TA will also discuss the types of results expected from each experiment. It should be noted that all the experiments in this manual contain a lab report form.

Note that even if partners are doing a lab together and they may have the same measurements, the lab report must be independently written up. Copying is not allowed. If copying is discovered, it is possible that no credit for the write up will be given to all guilty parties.
Missed Labs

If a student misses a lab (or believes he will have to miss a lab due to a university-excused absence), that student should try to find another section during that same week to do the lab experiment. The student should get prior approval from his TA to do this. Near the end of the semester, a makeup week may be scheduled. During this make up week period, only one missed lab will be allowed to be made up. Missing more than one lab may result in a zero for that lab and/or incomplete for the lab. Note that all labs must be completed and have a lab grade of 70 or higher. Check the syllabus of the lecturer for additional details.

In order to continue making improvements to the lab experiments, feedback from the students is important. Constructive comments are appreciated and should be submitted to the TA or the lab coordinator.