

PHYSICS 151R-1202 (GENERAL LAB) SPRING 2012

General Information

Instructor	:	Dambar Air
Email	:	dambar_air2000@yahoo.com
Office	:	Leifson Physics Building, 3 rd floor, Room # 321
Office hours	:	Tuesday 3:00PM - 4:00PM
TA Mail box	:	Leifson Physics Building (Second Floor)
Lab meeting time	:	Wednesday 10:00AM – 11:50AM
Lab manuals webpage	:	http://physics.unr.edu/LabsSpring.html

Class Description and Objectives

The purpose of the physics laboratory is to allow students to witness the concepts and physical laws that are introduced in lecture. You will also be exposed to elementary laboratory techniques. Every class will have a short lecture introducing the procedures, concepts, formulas and instructions relevant to the experiment. The lecture will also cover what is expected from you and how to write-up your lab-report. Attendance and participation is expected. Experiments will be performed **in groups** of two or more students.

Course Requirements

Lab etiquette

- Please **don't be late**.
- No **FOOD/DRINKS/SMOKING/APPLYING** of COSMETICS in the labs.
- Please turn off your cell phone.
- You and your partners **must clean up and shut off equipment** after you are finished with your lab. Failing to do so can affect your grade.
- Please report all damaged equipment so it can be replaced.
- You are expected to **read the lab experiments** before class and have a **printed copy** of the lab with you in the class.

Lab notebook

- A lab notebook is the way real scientists keep track of their work. It may seem tedious or even unnecessary to you, but it is an important part of any lab experience. The notebook should be complete enough that you could refer back to it in a few years and repeat the experiments.
- Each student should maintain her/his own lab notebook.
- The notebook must be **permanently bound**: no loose-leaf or spiral notebooks.
- Handwriting must be legible. All notes should be taken in pen with the exception of colored drawings that may be done with pencils. Errors should be crossed through with a single line, not erased or obliterated.

- All information in the notebook must be **handwritten** or represent actual results, such as photographs. Do not place any photocopied material into your notebook unless specifically directed to do so.
- Everything you do in the laboratory should be recorded in your lab notebooks, including notes, drawings, data, speculations, etc. Everything from your initial strategy through planning, execution and interpretation and should be in your notebook.
- Keep all of your lab-related notes, including lab lecture notes, in one notebook. Keep a separate binder for the lab manual and lab handouts.
- Keep in mind that **lab reports will be prepared from the notebook**. You should have much more information recorded in your notebook than you can or should put on a report.
- The notebook for this course should include:
 - Notes from the lab lecture, especially those pertaining to the theory section of your report
 - Any corrections to or hints about the lab procedure
 - **Data you recorded from the lab** (you will be responsible to get your **individual data in your lab notebook signed** by the instructor before leaving the lab. *This signature will be counted as attendance.*)
 - Any other useful stuff for writing your report, like calculations or rough figures

Lab reports

- There will be 11 lab experiments during the semester. **Only 10** of the 11 labs will be graded allowing the student to drop their lowest grade.
- Lab reports are due the following class period at the beginning of each class.
- **Each pair of students will turn in a single report.**
- There is one day grace period after which the grade is docked 20%. The grade will be docked an additional 10% for each week the lab report is late.
- Lab reports that contain copied or plagiarized material will be given a zero.
- **Lab reports for labs the student did not perform will be given a zero.**
- **Typewritten** lab reports are preferred. Neatly **hand-written** lab reports are also accepted. Illegible lab reports are unacceptable.
- You can turn in graphs on graph paper or printed out. Hand-drawn graphs on anything other than graph papers are unacceptable.
- Please **follow the given format** for the lab write-ups.

Attendance

- You are required to attend all the classes.
- If you must miss a lab due to an excused absence (illness, emergency or pre-arranged absence), you should arrange to make up the lab during a different lab session that week (the week of your absence). You should contact both instructors before attending another lab section.
- No more than two labs can be done in other lab sections.
- By department rules, **if you miss three or more classes you will receive a failing grade** for the lab section. There is no way to make up the labs.
- Lab reports that are turned in for experiments **which you did not attend/perform will not be graded**. You are expected to be to class on time.

Laboratory safety

- Experimental work can expose one to various kinds of **hazards** (electric shock, burns, cuts...). Every person working in the laboratory should be **situational aware of their surroundings** so as to avoid possible injury.
- Be aware and reduce the risk of injury and/or damaging the equipment. Report any accident immediately.

Grading:

- **Grading** will be based primarily on your lab reports.
- Also, at the end of semester your lab notebook will be examined to see if it has been maintained. **Lack of record** of any experiment in your lab notebook will lead to deduction of points (**up to 25 percent**) for that experiment. More importantly, **lack of signed original data** constitutes grounds for a **grade of zero**.
- **Only 10** of the 11 labs will be graded allowing the student to drop their lowest grade.
- By department rules, **if you miss three or more classes you will receive a failing grade**
- Each lab report worth **50 points**, and therefore the maximum total points possible is 500.
- A final percentage will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by 500.
- The final percentage will be reported to the Dr. Melodi Rodrigue.

Disability Services:

Any student wishing to apply for academic accommodations or adjustments is requested to inform the instructor, or contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC, Thompson, Suite 101, phone 784-6000) directly, as soon as possible to arrange appropriate actions. The DRC will be able to answer any questions regarding accommodations or adjustments.

Academic Integrity:

All lab reports, homework, or exams must be your own work. Any act of plagiarism (cheating, piracy, theft, etc.) or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the UNR General Catalog.

