

## FALL 2008 COLLEGE PHYSICS PHYS 203A

- Instructor:** Dr. Leo Silbert
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- Tel.** 453 1062
- Email:** [lsilbert@physics.siu.edu](mailto:lsilbert@physics.siu.edu)
- Office Hours:** 2pm - 4pm TWR
- Course Philosophy:** This course is designed to introduce you to basic and applied concepts in physics and to develop your skills for analytical thinking and problem solving. This course will not test your ability to memorize equations or textbook pages. Attend class and participate in class discussions and demonstrations.
- Course Material:** Course updates and exam schedules, list of homework problems, and solutions to problems, will be posted on the course website at blackboard [mycourses.siu.edu](http://mycourses.siu.edu)  
A campus network id and password are required to access this site.  
You can also find this information at my website at [www.physics.siu.edu/~lsilbert/Lectures/PHYS203A/PHYS203A.htm](http://www.physics.siu.edu/~lsilbert/Lectures/PHYS203A/PHYS203A.htm)
- Help Desk:** Outside Neckers 240G: [www.physics.siu.edu/courses/helpdesk.htm](http://www.physics.siu.edu/courses/helpdesk.htm)
- Textbook:** **Physics 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Cutnell and Johnson (Wiley).**  
Explore the student web site at: [www.wiley.com/college/cutnell](http://www.wiley.com/college/cutnell) . Click on the *student companion site* link on the left hand side of screen. Here you will find plenty of opportunities to practice regular course questions and review quizzes for the MCAT exam.
- Homework:** Homework assignments will be given out during class but **will not be graded**. You should attempt every problem. **Exam questions will be similar to homework problems and questions from the textbook.** Solutions to problems will be posted on the course website. *Use solutions as a last resort.* It is difficult to learn something if you just read the solutions without thinking about them. Attempt to solve every problem by yourself. If you do not understand the problem or you are unable to solve it, seek advice. Make full use of the Physics Help Desk & Office Hours. **Most importantly**, if you are still having trouble with problems after putting in a reasonable amount of effort the same thing is likely to happen with your exams. Do not let this type of thing go on for too long and do not fall behind in class. Just ask for help.

**Rough Guide to Class Schedule**

Week 1: Chap. 1 (1.1-1.3), Chap. 2

Week 2: Chap. 1 (1.4-1.9)

Week 3: Chap. 3

Week 4: 1<sup>st</sup> midterm scheduled

Week 5: Chap. 4

Week 6: Chap. 5

Week 7: Chap. 6, Chap. 7

Week 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm scheduled

Week 9: Chap. 8, Chap. 9

Week 10: Chap. 10, Chap. 11

Week 11: 3<sup>rd</sup> midterm scheduled

Week 13: Chapters 12, 13

Week 14: Chapters 14, 15, 16

Week 15: Chap. 17

**Final Exam:** Finals Week, Dec. 2008

**Grading:** Your course grade will be completely determined by your midterm exams and final exam grades,

Midterm 1: 23 %

Midterm 2: 23 %

Midterm 3: 23 %

Final Exam: 31 %

100 %

NO MAKE UP EXAMS.

FINAL EXAM IS COMPULSORY.

**Final Grade** Determined according to:

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89.99% = B

70% - 79.99% = C

55.0% - 69.99% = D

0% - 54.99% = F