Syllabus for Physics 6A, Summer Quarter, 2017

Lectures: Class number 70405, MWF, 8:00-9:10 AM, Thim Lecture 003

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Bailey
Office: ISB 328
Phone: (831)-459-4297
Email: stbaile@ucsc.edu
Office Hours: MWF 11-12 PM by apt only

Head TA: Your head TA is responsible for leading discussion sections. Questions regarding lectures and homework should be directed to your head TAs. If your head TA is not able to handle your request, then she/he will discuss it with me. I have 200 students this quarter and I do not have time to respond to individual emails. I’ve implemented this policy because I simply do not have the bandwidth. I care about all of my students and I care about doing a good job. But the reality is we are at a big university with big classes and I cannot give everyone the individual attention they want and deserve.

Your head TA is:
  • Daniel Davies, dadavies@ucsc.edu

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<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Davies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dadavies@ucsc.edu">dadavies@ucsc.edu</a></td>
<td>ISB 235</td>
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<td>6PM-7:30PM</td>
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Lab TAs:

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<tr>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Lehmann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blehmann@ucsc.edu">blehmann@ucsc.edu</a></td>
<td>6L-01</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>9:30AM-12:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominic</td>
<td>Pasquali</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dpasqual@ucsc.edu">dpasqual@ucsc.edu</a></td>
<td>6L-02</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>1:30PM-4:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Tamanas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jtamanas@ucsc.edu">jtamanas@ucsc.edu</a></td>
<td>6L-03</td>
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Email: I do not encourage asking homework questions by email. It is much more effective and efficient to discuss in person so please instead attend my office hours, discussion sections with your head TAs, MSI section with learning assistants, and/or ACE. You have lots of opportunities to ask questions and get help in person and I strongly encourage you to do so. In addition, you should not expect that an email
sent past 5 pm on a weekday or anytime on the weekend will be answered by your TAs or myself.

**Optional Discussion Sections:** Led by your heads TAs. Attendance of one of the discussion sections is strongly recommended but not mandatory. They will concentrate on problem solving, understanding of concepts, and help with homework. Discussion sections will begin the second week of class.

**Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI):** MSI provides an opportunity for students to learn together in small groups led by advanced students. As MSI for PHYS 6A consistently sees high utilization and large session sizes, they have decided to implement a sign-up system that restricts MSI sessions to students who make a commitment to come to a certain session every week. Students who attend MSI regularly see the most benefit and this system will encourage students to attend consistently throughout the quarter while also ensuring sessions remain a size that is conducive to peer-learning.

You can sign-up for weekly tutoring here: 
https://lss.ucsc.edu/programs/small-group-tutoring/how-to-sign-up.html

Your learning assistant is Demir Worthington (dworthin@ucsc.edu).

**Office Hours:** My office hours are by appointment only. Office hours are not discussion sections. This time is intended for one-on-one help. You must come prepared with specific questions and show me your work. You can sign up for a 15-minute slot here. **Be sure that when you paste this link there are no spaces.**

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUszZmVXb0tTjLfGRIZmF1bHR8NGQwYjJkMzcxYTJjVmOTZiNTljNTUzNDJiNDY0NTc

**ACE:** Academic Excellence Program (ACE) is an academic support program that is dedicated to increasing the diversity of UCSC students earning bachelors' degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. ACE is a community of scholars who strive for and commit to academic excellence. ACE brings STEM students together in active learning problem solving sessions that supplement several large math and science lectures. We help you understand the lecture and textbook through concept specific worksheets that you and your classmates work on as a team. ACE staff considers various factors to determine enrollment. Only students with proposed or declared physical or biological sciences or engineering majors are considered for ACE problem solving sessions. Priority goes to EOP students, and/or students who have previously participated in ACE and have taken full advantage of the program’s resources.

The ACE website is https://ace.ucsc.edu and Vivian Tang (vltang@ucsc.edu) will be leading Physics 6A Problem Solving Sessions.
Private Tutors: Below is a list of physics graduate students that are interested and available to tutor. Hourly rate may vary from one graduate student to another and you should discuss this. Dana Faiez was a discussion section TA for me in the past and did a phenomenal job.

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<tr>
<th>Graduate Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Kaminsky</td>
<td>(408) 529-9217</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gkaminsk@ucsc.edu">gkaminsk@ucsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peizhi Mai</td>
<td>424-558-1070</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pemai@ucsc.edu">pemai@ucsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
<td>(805) 794-0008</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rksmith@ucsc.edu">rksmith@ucsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny Davenport</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jodavenp@ucsc.edu">jodavenp@ucsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Faiez</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dfaiez@ucsc.edu">dfaiez@ucsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Connell</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jomaconn@ucsc.edu">jomaconn@ucsc.edu</a></td>
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Webcast: Lectures will not be recorded or webcasted.

Use of smart phones during lecture: You are not allowed to use your phones or smart phones during my lectures. Absolutely no texting, no talking, no ringing, no recording of my lectures, no face-booking, no tweeting, nothing! This is very distracting to both your peers and myself. If you use your phone, I will ask you to leave the lecture hall.

Textbook: I require “Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach”, Volume 1, by Randall Knight, the 2013 edition (3rd edition). I recommend purchasing this books from the UCSC bookstore as a bundle, along with access to MasteringPhysics; I worked hard to get a good package deal from the publisher for you.

Course Description: Physics 6A is the first course in the three-quarter physics sequence for life science and related majors. Elementary mechanics. Vectors, Newton’s laws, inverse square force laws, work and energy, conservation of momentum and energy, and oscillations. Prerequisite(s): Concurrent enrollment in course 6L required. Corequisite(s): Mathematics 11A or 19A or 20A or Applied Mathematics and Statistics 15A. (General Education Code(s): MF, IN, Q.)

Course Goals: My goals for the course are to have you

- Develop a qualitative sense of “how things work” and learn to explain many everyday phenomena
- Learn to think analytically and logically by solving quantitative problems using the physics concepts developed in this course
- Gain an appreciation for the physical world and find the world a more interesting place

Course Website: The main class website is on canvas (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/5422). Announcements, course schedule,
homework assignments, solutions, the syllabus, lecture notes, and grades will be posted here.

Course Schedule: The course schedule is on canvas and contains important dates such as exams and homework assignments. I will update the schedule after each lecture to include the relevant reading from Knight and homework assignments so please check it daily.

Grading:

Homework: 10%
Class Participation (ConcepTests): 5%
Midterm 1: 25%
Midterm 2: 25%
Final Exam: 35%

I will base your grade on a curve. I DO assign grades of “C-“, “D”, and “F”. I am a conscientious teacher and I care about teaching you. But your grade is your responsibility. Do not hassle me about your grade, do not ask for extra credit, do not ask me for an exception. I expect you to act like adults and to be kind and respectful. If you act otherwise, I will not deal with you. I’m nice and friendly. But I’m not a push-over. I strive for fairness and consistency. I’m strict and I have high expectations of each of you.

Exam re-grades: Sometimes, despite our best efforts, your exams may not be graded with perfect precision and accuracy. This could be due to many factors: multiple graders, graders with little experience, time pressure, and so on. Consequently, you will have an opportunity to review your exams and the solutions and ask for a re-grade if you think your exam was graded unfairly. This is handled entirely by your head TA and not me. You must take this up with your head TA within one week on getting your exam back. Do not approach me about a re-grade. Your head TA handle this entirely to ensure fairness and consistency.

To request a re-grade, you need to write up a detailed explanation of why you believe you deserve more credit and submit the explanation and your exam to your head TA. Please note that if you request a re-grade and you clearly did another problem wrong and didn’t get marked down for it, you will be penalized for it. In other words, midterms submitted for re-grades can be given a higher or lower grade than originally assigned, as determined by your actual performance.

Homework: Homework sets are assigned weekly and are usually due within one week from the posting date unless otherwise noted in the schedule. Homework is due at 8 AM on the day it is due. No homework will be accepted after that time because the solutions will be posted on canvas. There are NO exceptions so please don’t ask. The problems are usually selected from the material taught during the previous week of class. Taking the homework seriously is very important as it
prepares you for exams. Please do not ask me homework questions immediately before or after class. This is difficult as I have to set-up technology and demonstrations.

We will be using MasteringPhysics for the online homework submission and homework problems will come from the required textbook. The homework answers will be entered via the WWW using MasteringPhysics (www.masteringphysics.com). The course ID for this class is **MPBAILEY86348**. You will need this course ID to register into my MasteringPhysics course. For a video link to step-by-step instructions on how to register and enroll into my course, go to: http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringphysics/students/get-registered/index.html.

Do not ask questions via MasteringPhysics as your TA will not be checking this website. Questions asked via MasteringPhysics will remain unanswered. Instead, contact your TA directly.

This software will provide instant feedback on which problems were answered correctly and which were not. You will be allowed multiple attempts to upload answers (up to a maximum of 6 attempts per problem), and your grade will be based on the last submission. Homework solutions will be posted on the course website shortly after the deadline. Don't ask for additional attempts or extensions on homework. This isn't possible since solutions are posted online. You are encouraged to discuss how to do the homework problems with each other, but after discussing them, go back and work them through by yourself. If you copy someone else's solution, this will be considered cheating.

I have posted a “Homework Guidelines” document, which elaborates on good practices. Even though the homework is submitted online, you should always use these guidelines and write out your homework as if you were going to turn it in to me. I expect you to follow these guidelines and good practices on in-class exams. So practice these on your homework.

**Class Participation:** Lectures will be interspersed with conceptual questions (called ConcepTests or QuickQuizzes) that assess your comprehension of the material discussed that day. These questions are multiple-choice questions. All students discuss their reasoning with their neighbors and vote on the answer they think is correct.

You will need either an “iclicker” RF electronic student response unit (available at Bay Tree Bookstore) or a smart device. Regardless of what you use, every student needs an “iClicker Cloud” account. The cost is about $10. To register your iclicker or smart device, visit our canvas course website and on the link “iClicker Cloud.” Please register your device before the second class meeting.

Correct responses get full credit and incorrect responses get 1/3 credit. Don't ask
me to change this proportion. I understand that it may be necessary to miss a few lectures due to circumstances beyond your control. I also understand that you may occasionally forget your iClicker or your batteries may fail. So at the end of the quarter, I will automatically give everyone an extra 6 participation points. Do not ask me for exceptions to this rule.

Why do I use ConcepTests?
- This method has the tremendous importance of giving me significant feedback about where the class is and what it knows. It allows me to test my assumptions on the level of comprehension of the material by the students in the class and adjust accordingly in real time, either covering misunderstood material in another way or moving quickly through content that is already clear to the group.
- This teaching style engenders a better understanding of the fundamental concepts and discourages a number of bad study habits such as rote memorization and an exclusive focus on problem solving.
- The method allows each student to test their own comprehension of course content and identify gaps in their knowledge anonymously.

Exams: Exams are closed-book and closed-notes. I will provide you a list of all the equations you need, plus some you don't. The style of exams may be a mix of conceptual questions (multiple choice, short answer) and numerical problems. Exam dates are listed on the course schedule. Don't hassle me about the equation sheet. I'll post the sheet within a few days of the exam.

No makeup exams are scheduled. If you miss an exam due to an unavoidable catastrophe, then please come to see me about what to do, together with appropriate official documentation of your excuse. You absolutely need documentation. For example, if you are sick, you need an official doctor's note. Do not ask to take any exam on a different day or time. Absolutely, no exceptions.

The midterms are scheduled on Wednesday, July 19 and Friday, August 11 during the regular lecture. The final exam is scheduled on the last day of class.

Labs: The lab course is graded and passed separately from 6A, although they are designed to work together. Read through the experiment before you arrive and do the pre-lab exercises carefully. This is useful for you, of course, but more importantly it’s unfair to your lab partner for you to come in with no preparation. Please be neat, clear, and complete in your lab write-ups. There will be a total of eight labs. Labs must be attended regularly. If you miss one lab, you cannot get higher than a B in 6L. If you miss two, you will fail the lab course (6L, not 6A), and will have to take it again. If, for a plausible excuse, you must miss one of the labs, make sure to inform your TA well in advance, and to discuss with her/him whether or how a make-up might be possible. It is completely up to the TA to approve or reject this possibility. Lab grades are assigned by your TA and are separate from your grade in the lecture course. Please come to the first lab prepared with the lab
manual and a new lab notebook in which to do your work.

**Getting Help:**
1. Office hours: By appointment only.

2. Discussion Sections: The TAs will be running discussion sections to provide help with homework. Section attendance is optional. You may attend a discussion section from any lab TA assigned to this course.

3. MSI or LSS (see above)

4. ACE (see above)

5. Private Tutoring (see above)

5. Other Students: Your fellow classmates are an excellent way to get help with homework or to review material. I encourage each of you to connect with one or two classmates and form a study group. Who knows, you may make some life-long friends in this class!

**Disability Accommodations:** UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, we would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. We encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

**Needed Equipment:**

- A simple scientific calculator for exams. This cannot be a programmable calculator, graphing calculator, smart phone, or any other device that can store information, make graphs, do calculus, or connect online. Appropriate calculators are generally those that cost less than $15.

- An “iclicker” RF electronic student response unit (available at Bay Tree Bookstore) or a smart device AND an “iClicker Cloud” account.

- Physics 6L Lab Manual (available at Bay Tree)

- A hard-bound, quadrille-ruled laboratory notebook, such as the 7-1/2 inch by 9-3/4 inch notebooks available in the bookstore. Spiral bound notebooks or linear ruled notebooks are not acceptable.
• Access to MasteringPhysics.

**Class Courtesy:** Please make a special effort to arrive at class on time and avoid leaving early. Students going in and out during the lecture are disruptive to the rest of the class and to me. If you unavoidably arrive late or absolutely must leave early, then please use the upper doors and take a seat in the back rows of the lecture hall.

**Courtesy to Me:** If you choose not to attend lecture, you will miss out on important announcements. Do not send me emails asking for this information. I do not have time to repeat myself.

**Learning Physics Takes Work:** Reading the textbook, participating in the lectures and labs, and working all of the assigned homework problems is the minimum effort needed to gain a competent understanding of each of the topics covered in this course. You should expect to work no less than about 16 hours per week on this course alone: 4 in lecture, 4 in lab (including preparation before the session), and 8 studying the book and doing homework (perhaps including attendance of the discussion sections). That is reasonable for 6 units of university credit. Depending on your abilities and background, to truly excel in the course may require somewhat more effort. I recommend that you read the Preface to the Student in the textbook.

**Start out strong and don't fall behind:** In any course, it is advisable to keep up with the work throughout the quarter, but that is especially crucial in physics. The material builds upon itself throughout the quarter. It simply is not possible to understand Chapter 6 if you do not first understand Chapter 5, and so forth. You cannot take a week off from the physics homework under the assumption that you will miss just 10% of the course. If you do so, you very likely will be in trouble the following weeks, unless you go back and learn the material that you missed. If you keep up with the pace every week, then you will be able to go into the exams with low stress and, hopefully, excel.

**Succeeding in 6A:** We’re here to help you, but you have to take primary responsibility for making sure you learn the material. There are a lot of tools available to you, and homework is probably the most important. We strongly encourage you to discuss the problems with other students, but you must sit down to work out your final answers alone. Violation of this rule, or any other abuse of the online homework system, will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in penalties up to failing the course, at my discretion. Following your group study session or section, you should always write up your work individually. Being able to rework your group’s effort will show you whether you really understood everything.

There is no quick and easy way to do well in a physics course. If you’re not spending 10 hours a week outside the classroom on homework, reading, and other problem-solving, do not expect to pass. Please take advantage of the TAs’ discussion sections,
MSI, and my office hours for help. Come to us early if you're getting worried. Your grade is determined entirely by your numerical scores, so there’s nothing we can do to change it after the fact – we can only work with you so that you'll do better on the final. Feel free to ask me to schedule an extra office hour with you if you can't make the posted ones or feel you are in particular trouble; I may not always be available but I'll do it if I can.

Physics consists of applying basic principles in new and unfamiliar situations. Thus, you will be facing problems on the exams that might look unfamiliar to you. This is the essence of a physics course and why other departments generally want you to take one. It can be unfamiliar when compared to other courses where memorization and drilling simple tasks is enough. Don't get caught off-guard by it, and come to us for help if you find it frustrating.

**Academic Integrity:**

On exams: use of any aid not specifically allowed, including notes, use of a smart phone or other device to get any outside information, any copying from another student, or any help from another person by any mechanism, will result in a grade of F in the entire course. To repeat: getting caught cheating on an exam results in automatically failing the course. All work presented on exams must be your own. Any cases of cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the corresponding University regulations against academic dishonesty.

On homework: If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment, you (and anyone else involved) will receive a zero for that assignment.

On class participation: Bringing someone else’s clicker or smart device into class to get clicker credit for them as well as yourself will result in the loss of a full letter grade in the course for both parties involved.

All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the provost of your college. In addition to the academic penalties above, your provost may order other penalties such as suspension or expulsion from the university.

Please familiarize yourself with the following guide to academic integrity: [https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/ai_student-guide](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/ai_student-guide).
List of topics: Please note that the below list is not a list of individual lectures. Some of the topics are covered through more than one class, others are just parts of one lecture.

- Kinematics in 1D
- Vectors and Coordinate Systems
- Kinematics in 2D
- Force and Motion
- Dynamics I: Motion Along a Line
- Newton’s 3rd Law
- Dynamics II: Motion in a Plane
- Impulse and Momentum
- Energy
- Work
- Rotation of a Rigid Body
- Newton’s Theory of Gravity
- Oscillations