

Expectations for Conceptual Physics, Fall '09

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This year we will be taking a hands-on approach to learning the central concepts in Physics. The learning will be centered on a series of group challenges that will expose students to a set of concepts through shared investigation and inquiry. The format of the course will be somewhat experimental and the schedule of events will be flexible to allow for deeper investigation when needed. Students are expected to be active participants in the design, flow and documentation of the semester under my guidance.

For each challenge, students will be guided by a list of key concepts that they are to gain mastery of through the group collaborative process. Students are expected to pursue an aggressive and motivated quest to gain this conceptual mastery.

Here are the specific expectations for credit:

1. Be on time for class, prepared with your notebook (three ring binder, labeled with your name, with separate tabs for homework, class notes, handouts, and assessments). Keep all work neatly in this binder. I expect that you will be able to lay your hands on any piece of work at any time during class. *Evaluation based on preparedness, neatness and promptness.*
2. Be considerate of, and courteous to fellow learners. Help foster an environment that is safe for inquiry and learning. *Evaluation will be based on courtesy towards fellow classmates, preparation both mentally and physically for class, and seriousness of intent to learn during class.*
3. Participate **enthusiastically** in class discussions and activities. Leave your reticence or lack of enthusiasm at the door. Be an active and responsible team member. Eschew the improper use of the word "like" in class. *Evaluation will be based on enthusiasm, frequency of participation, infrequency of the improper use of "like" and thoughtfulness of discussion. Team members will evaluate each other several times during the semester. Each team member will be required to demonstrate mastery of all aspects of a group project through a variety of assessment methods including oral quizzes, written assignments and practical demonstrations.*
4. Keep detailed and complete class notes in a separate tab in a 3 ring binder. Review and summarize the class activities after each class session. Focus on the concepts for mastery in that particular challenge and write about them. *Evaluation will be based on neatness, completeness, and diligence in summarizing daily class notes and activities. Lack of notes, poor quality notes, missing revisions can result in not earning credit! This is one aspect of the class to take very seriously!!!!!! I'll be collecting the notes weekly at the beginning of the day on Monday. Make sure your notes for the previous week are in order!!!*
5. Complete all homework assignments on time. Homework may consist of, but is not limited to: Textbook questions, essays, experiment planning and write-up, readings, reading notes, and internet research. Students are allowed to miss two homework deadlines per semester, but all work must be turned in by the following class to receive credit for the course. *Evaluation will be based on neatness, completeness, and thoughtfulness of assignments.*
6. Complete an assessment upon the conclusion of each topic. Students must attain a 75% or better on the assessment or they must complete a follow-up review assignment

or oral re-assessment within two class periods. *Evaluation of assessments will be based on correctness of answers, completeness, and neatness.*

7. Twice in the semester, each student will prepare a question of the day relevant to the material presented in class. The questions should be well thought out and the student should endeavor to puzzle out answers. These questions will be presented at the start of Friday class period. Figure on spending no more than five minutes in presenting and discussing. *Evaluation will be based on how interesting, relevant and well thought out the question is.*
8. Several times during the semester, each team will be responsible for presenting a summary of their process towards completion of a challenge. See separate sheet for details. *Evaluation will be based on how complete and engaging the presentation was, and depth of knowledge of the subject.*
9. Complete an end-of-semester take home open notes assessment. Be prepared to revise answers based on faculty review.