

# Physics 4C Syllabus

## Spring 2024

**Class Details:**

6 units  
Lecture TTh 5:30-7:45pm, S34  
Lab T or Th, see lab syllabus

**Instructor:**

Megan Ulbricht

**Email:**

[ulbrichtmegan@fhda.edu](mailto:ulbrichtmegan@fhda.edu)

**Office Hours:**

T 4:30pm-5:20pm, S13

**Final Exam:**

Tuesday June 25 6:15pm-8:15pm, S34

**Text:**

Physics for Scientists and Engineers, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, volume 1 by Serway and Jewett  
It is not required but strongly recommended that you obtain a copy of the text. There is no need for a physical copy unless that is the format that you prefer (in other words, a pdf is fine).

**Course Description:**

This course covers fluid mechanics (pressure, Archimedes's Principle, Bernoulli's equation), thermodynamics (temperature, the zeroth, first, and second laws of thermodynamics, thermal expansion, the ideal gas law, calorimetry, kinetic theory of gases, heat engines, entropy), mechanical waves (traveling waves, wave on a string, sound waves, wave interference, standing waves, doppler effect), and optics (geometric optics, reflection, refraction, image formation, single and double slit interference, polarization). This corresponds with chapters 14, 16-22, and 35-38 in the text.

**Requisites:**

Passing grade (C or higher) in Physics 4B and at least concurrent enrollment in Math 1D or 1DH

**Important Dates:**

April 20, Last day to drop without a W  
May 25-27 Memorial Day Weekend, campus closed  
May 31, last day to drop with a W  
June 19, Juneteenth Holiday, campus closed

**Course Grade Distribution:**

Homework	15%
Midterm I	25%
Midterm II	15%
Lab	15%
Final Exam	30%

**Letter Grade Distribution:**

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
>98%	A+	4.0
92% - 97.9%	A	4.0
90% - 91.9%	A-	3.7
88% - 89.9%	B+	3.3
82% - 87.9%	B	3.0
80% - 81.9%	B-	2.7
78% - 79.9%	C+	2.3
70% - 77.9%	C	2.0
68% - 69.9%	D+	1.3
62% - 67.9%	D	1.0
60% - 61.9%	D-	0.7
<60%	F	0.0

**Exams:**

There will be two midterms and one comprehensive final, all **in-person**. The exams will include a multiple choice and a free response section, with the free response section accounting for roughly 75% of the points. The grading on the multiple-choice section is all-or-nothing. Partial credit will be awarded where appropriate on the free response problems. **There are no makeup exams.**

You may use any calculator that you would like as long as it is not on a web-enabled device (i.e., no cellphone calculators, Desmos, etc.). An equation list and scratch paper will be provided. No additional notes or materials are allowed on the exams.

If your final exam score is higher than your lowest midterm score, I will average your final exam score and your lowest midterm score and replace your midterm score with that value. For example, if your lowest midterm score is a 60% and you get an 80% on the final exam, I will replace the 60% with  $(60\% + 80\%)/2 = 70\%$ .

Communicating with classmates or having a phone or other web-enabled device out during an exam may constitute academic dishonesty and may result in a zero on the exam. Phones, tablets, and computers are not allowed out during exams.

Failing to turn in exam promptly when the exam time has ended may result in a deduction from your exam score at my discretion.

**Homework:**

Homework will be submitted online via Expert TA. A one-quarter-long subscription costs \$23.34 and can be purchased online or at the bookstore. Click on an assignment link on Canvas to get started with the program. Homework done on paper will not be accepted.

Some late homework is accepted, with deductions. Each problem completed after the due date will be docked 5% per day. For example, if 8 out of 10 problems are completed by the due date, you will keep all points earned on those 8 problems, regardless of whether/when you complete the remaining 2 problems. If you finish the remaining problems 3 days after the due date,  $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$  will be deducted from your score on those 2 problems only. **Late work is accepted only until the closing date of the assignment**, when the answers become available. Closing dates can be found under the column labeled "End" on the Expert TA assignment list.

**Lab:**

**Attendance is mandatory.** You may be dropped from the class or receive a non-passing grade if you have more than one unexcused absence in lab. Absences will be excused only in the case of serious injury or illness or other serious events, at my discretion. Notification of a forthcoming absence should be given prior to the missed lab. You must attend the lab section in which you are enrolled.

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating will result in a score of 0 on the assignment or exam in question. Further disciplinary action may be taken on a case-by-case basis. Violations include communicating with a classmate or using a phone or other prohibited device during an exam, copying another student's work, allowing someone to copy your work, copying online solutions, and plagiarism.

**Student Learning Outcome(s):**

- Critically examine new, previously un-encountered problems, analyzing and evaluating their constituent parts, to construct and explain a logical solution utilizing, and based upon, the fundamental laws of waves, fluids, optics, and thermodynamics.
- Acquire confidence in taking precise and accurate scientific measurements, with their uncertainties, and then with calculations from them, analyze their meaning as relative, in an experimental context, to the verification and support of physics theories.

**Office Hours:**

T      04:30 PM      05:20 PM      In-Person      S13