Physics 114A
Introduction to Mechanics

(without calculus)

A course about learning basic physics concepts
and applying them to solve real-world,
quantitative, mechanical problems

Lecturer: Prof. Paul Boynton

Getting started

Course Web Page:

http://faculty.washington.edu/boynton/114AWinter08/

Easily found though Physics Dept. web page at

http://www.phys.washington.edu

Select: academics, then courses, 11x & 12x series, 114sectionA, or Phys 117

Course Components

- Daily readings in course text book
- Lectures:
    1. Highlighting and demonstrating concepts in text
    2. Problem-solving examples
- Weekly homework:
    1. Web-based (Tycho system) due on Tuesdays
    2. Optional *Study Problems*
- Physics Study Center
- Frequent in-class mini-quizzes
- Three “midterm” exams
- “Optional” final exam

Reading This Week

week	date	lecture topic	reading in text	lab
1	7-Jan	Overview	Ch 1	No Lab 1st week
	8-Jan	Position & Velocity	2-1 to 2-3	
	10-Jan	Velocity & Acceleration	2-4 to 2-7	
	11-Jan	Vectors	3-1 to 3-3	

TYCHO HOMEWORK WEBSITE

(Link on course web page)

Site contains login instructions

First Assignment Due Next Tuesday, January 15, before 11:00 PM

There is no time limit per problem. There is no penalty for trying many answers. Late submittals receive 70% credit in following 24 hours, and zero credit thereafter.

Tycho always expects 1% answer accuracy, even if only 1 digit is displayed in the problem statement.

THINGS TO BUY

1. Textbook: *Physics*, J. Walker, 3rd edition, 2007. We will use only volume one this quarter.

2. If taking lab course: manual for phys 117, winter 07 (this is a coursepak is available at the university bookstore)

3. H-ITT transmitter (also at the bookstore)

4. Any calculator with trig functions and logarithms

COURSE GOALS

- To explain the Basic Principles of Physics
- To understand the many Physics Concepts and Principles at a basic level
- To connect these Concepts and Principles to Real-World Behavior
- To develop skill in applying these ideas to solve quantitative physics problems. . .and thereby achieve a sense of accomplishment

KEYS TO SUCCESS

(in problem solving)

Focus on understanding how each new topic fits into the pattern of previous topics to build your physics knowledge

PRACTICE PROBLEM SOLVING

Never let anything go by that you do not understand. Ask questions immediately, or make a note to ask later.

MORE

PRACTICE PROBLEM SOLVING