

Subject: CP Physics
Year: 2008 - 2009

Teacher: Mr. Coté

General Remarks

Welcome to CP Physics. This is a college-preparatory physics course, and *is intended to prepare you for future involvement in science at the college level*. Your enrollment implies a certain level of academic proficiency and desire to learn on your part. By nature, physics is a very mathematical science. Almost every principle that you will learn this year will be grounded in some form of mathematical relationship. As such, it is important that you have a firm background in Algebra and basic Trigonometry. Not all of you wish to be future scientists, I am sure, but keep in mind that this course is intended to give you the necessary tools to succeed in college if you do wish to pursue such a career. I will maintain high academic and personal expectations of you, and expect that you will demand the same from me. In the event you feel uncomfortable with any of the material in this course, it is imperative that you seek me for help. I will offer any and all help to you that is possible in order to ensure that you succeed.

Text: Conceptual Physics (Hewitt)

This is a high school text whose goal is to prepare you for college-level study. You are expected to promptly cover and protect it from wear and tear, so that it will remain in a similar condition for next year.

Most of the work we do together in class will have associated material in your textbook, although I do not plan to follow the activities in the book verbatim. It is expected that you will read all relevant material in the textbook as we proceed. Most often homework and quiz problems will be similar to those in the book, and you will be held responsible for the material in the text.

Notebooks:

I strongly recommend that you have a 3-ring notebook dedicated to Physics. I will give you details in class on how I suggest you organize your notebook.

Grading

Your grade in this course will depend on your performance in three main categories: 1) Tests; 2) Quizzes and Laboratory Work; 3) Homework and Participation. Your final grade will be calculated based on the following formula:

Test Average:	50%
Quiz and Laboratory Work Average:	30%
Homework and Participation Average:	<u>20%</u>
Final Grade:	100%

Tests

You will have two tests per quarter. Each test will count for 25% of your quarter grade. These will be comprehensive exams, which will generally assess your mastery of several different topics. The first test each quarter will be given approximately 4 – 5 weeks into the quarter, and the second test will usually be given during the last week of the quarter. If you receive a score below 80%, and are unsatisfied with your grade, I will offer a retake approximately one week after the test. You may improve your grade up to 80%. If you are unable to take the retake test on the designated date, you will forfeit your opportunity to retake the test. If you miss a test due to an excused absence, you must schedule a make-up test with me within one week. After-school activities such as athletics or drama will **not** be considered excused. Always be sure to check with me well in advance if you have concerns.

Quizzes and Laboratory Work

Quizzes will be given periodically throughout each quarter to monitor your progress. Individual quizzes will be weighted according to their length and difficulty. Very often, short quizzes, taking 5 – 10 minutes, will be given at the start of class to monitor short-term effort/progress. Over the course of a quarter, up to three of these quiz grades will be dropped. If you miss one of these short quizzes, you must see me sometime within the next two days for a makeup quiz. If you fail to do so, you will receive a zero. Not as frequently throughout each quarter, longer quizzes will be given that require mastery of more material. None of these quiz grades will be dropped. If one of these quizzes is missed due to an excused absence, you must make arrangements to make up the quiz within one week. If arrangements are not made, you will receive a zero for the quiz.

You will also conduct several laboratory exercises and activities each quarter. Occasionally you will be asked to submit formal lab reports, while more often you will hand in an informal summary. Formal and informal lab reports should follow the formats prescribed to you in separate handouts. Lab submittals are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. You will lose 10% for every day late up to one week. Labs more than one week late will receive a zero. If you miss a lab or activity due to an excused absence, it must be made up within one week, or you will receive a zero.

Homework and Participation

Homework will be assigned periodically. Often it will be checked the following day for effort or level of completion, while at other times it will be collected and graded for accuracy. You will be notified in advance how it will be graded. Collected late homework will be graded similarly to labs (see above).

All of the work that I collect from you will be used by me as a tool for determining how well you are proceeding. As such, it is essential that you submit complete, neat work that shows your best effort. In cases where written responses are asked for, you must submit your work in complete sentences, and should take care to use proper grammar and spelling. When mathematical responses are required, you must show all of your work, including units, and any supporting descriptive words that will help me follow your work (more details will follow in a separate handout).

Your participation grade will be based on my assessment of your performance throughout the quarter. If you are an active participant in class, and have done all assigned work, you will receive full credit. However, if your attention and level of participation are less than reasonable, you may receive only partial credit.

To assure me that you have read and understand the above information, please sign your name below, and have a parent or guardian sign as well.

Student Signature

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Date