

AP Physics C Course Information

The course is geared towards the two Advanced Placement Physics C Exams given by the College Board in May. The subject matter of the two exams, Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism, will be discussed further during the final preparation. The first semester of this course covers Mechanics, and the second covers E & M, and includes an overall review in preparation for the exam.

You will need the Logger Pro and Google Colab applications on your laptop. You can download these from the self-service kiosk on your desktop. Contact the IT Helpdesk if you have difficulties. There is a printer available in the open lab on the 2nd floor of Mamiya when classes are not being held there.

Grades in the course will be determined on the basis of periodic chapter tests or quizzes, packet checks, lab reports and possibly other assignments. Tests and quizzes vary in frequency and in the amount of subject matter covered. Packets will contain completed class work and full credit will be given at the discretion of the teacher, based on student engagement as well as completion. Tests often use restricted questions from past AP exams and therefore cannot be taken home, however students may review past tests at any time in conference with their teacher.

At the end of the first semester there will be a semester exam on Mechanics which counts as 20% of the semester grade. The second semester grade will be based only on the two quarter grades (50% each); there will be no final exam. The review exams given in the second quarter of the second semester cover material from the whole course, but they are included only in that quarter's grade.

A	100%
A	90%
A-	85%
B+	80%
B	75%
B-	70%
C+	65%
C	60%
C-	55%
D+	50%
D	45%
D-	40%
F	0%

Letter grades for quarters, the semester exam and semesters will be based the breakdown at in the table at left. Grades for every assignment are curved according to this matrix. Score values are not rounded, for example: an 84.9% is a B+ and would not round up to an A- since the grade is already curved. The first semester grade is an average of the percentages from all work throughout the semester for 80% of the grade and the semester exam counts for 20%.

It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a makeup test for excused absences. Students are encouraged to make up work beforehand if they know they will be absent in advance, they are encouraged to take tests or hand in work the day they get back if possible. Makeup tests may or may not be the same as those given to other students; students who have taken a particular test may not discuss it with students who have not.

An unexcused absence from a test or any assignment results in a grade of zero for that assignment.

There will be a due date established for lab reports at the time the lab is done, usually at the end of a class. Notice will be given in class and on the cyclesheet well ahead of time. If a student is absent on the day the lab is done, it is their responsibility to schedule a time to make up the lab. A due date will be established then, usually 1 cycle after the lab is completed or by the end of the unit, whichever comes first. If a student is absent the day a lab report is due, it must be handed in as soon as they return to school. No one may use data they did not collect if they are absent for a lab, that is considered cheating.

Two unexcused absences (cuts) in a given quarter will result in a grade penalty, including possible failure, for the quarter. The third and all subsequent unexcused tardies in a given quarter may affect your quarter grade with a grade penalty as well, have a conversation with your teacher if there is some reason for absences or tardies and if an excuse is needed retroactively, ask your deans to send a written statement via email.

Laboratory Procedures

All laboratory work involves a certain amount of risk of bodily injury because of the materials and equipment needed for meaningful scientific studies. With proper procedures, the risks are minimal. They can, however, become serious if a student (either carelessly or willfully) departs from instructions given. Therefore, all instructions must be followed carefully at all times. Any misuse of laboratory materials is strictly prohibited.

No materials, tools, apparatus, chemicals, or other supplies may be taken from the laboratory without specific permission from the instructor.

Failure to abide by these procedures is cause for disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the course.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Definitions and Consequences

Plagiarism is the act of taking words or ideas that are the work of someone else and, by failing to cite your source, suggesting or claiming that they are your own. If you plagiarize, with or without intention, you are guilty of theft. If you allow your work to be plagiarized, you also are guilty because you become a party to dishonesty. You should expect to be treated similarly. Please refer to the [Punahou School Handbook](#) (starting on page 15 with the title Academic Integrity) for complete definitions and policies regarding plagiarism.

Here are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Turning in as your own work the work of another student or a past student.
2. Taking ideas or words from a published source without making it clear that they have been borrowed by providing proper citations.
3. Taking ideas or words from the Internet without making it clear that they have been borrowed by providing proper citations.
4. Taking bits and pieces of the work of others, including scientific publications, without indicating that they are not your own. (Changing the words in a passage does not make it your own.)
5. Proper paraphrasing of ideas or concepts that you read means that you summarize and synthesize the work in your own words. If you only change a few words or copy from a source without putting what you copied in quotation marks (and provide the proper citation) you have plagiarized someone else's work.
6. Using AI like ChatGPT to write answers or phrases (such as conclusions for a lab) for you, even if you change some words after the answer is created.

Cheating is as serious an offense as plagiarism. If you help another person cheat, you also are guilty because you become a party to dishonesty. You should expect to have similar consequences.

Here are some examples of cheating:

1. Obtaining help from or giving help to another student without authorization during a quiz, test, or exam.
2. Using data you did not collect to do analysis and come to conclusions on a lab report.
3. Submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.
4. Using books, notes, AI or any unauthorized sources of information during a quiz, test, or exam.
5. Obtaining, without authorization, part or all of a quiz, test, or exam, before taking the quiz, test, or exam. Specifically, this includes discussions between a student who has taken a quiz, test, or exam in an earlier period and one who will take it at a later time.

Summary of plagiarism and cheating:

Teachers in the Science Department will report all instances of plagiarism and cheating (which includes helping someone else plagiarize or cheat) to the deans. If you plagiarize or cheat, once in a course, you will fail the assignment with a grade of zero. If you plagiarize or cheat twice in a course, you will fail the course for the semester. The deans will also impose consequences **in addition** to those imposed by the Science Department, which may include a notation in your file, demerits, conferences with your parents, suspension and/or expulsion from school.

General Classroom Behaviors

Phones will generally not be used in class and must be silenced and put out of sight in student's book bag or backpack. Students going to the restroom will be asked to leave their phone in the classroom. Let anyone who wants to contact you know that you are unavailable during your physics class timeframe. This applies to smartwatches or other devices, do not use them for texts or emails and make sure they do not vibrate while you are in class.

Don't use earbuds or other devices to listen to anything from your phone, computer or watch. Be present with your peers and engage in collaborative learning.

If you want to use an ipad for your packet, please silence notifications before or right at the start of class and don't use any other apps, except for calculators or Desmos.

Absences

What do you do if you know you will be absent?

- Review the [cyclesheet](#)
- Consider all work to be missed in all classes, not just this one
- Create a realistic plan for making up all work, with tentative deadlines
- Do your best to do as much before the absence as possible
- Share your plan with your teacher and modify the plan to finalize it with her approval
- Put the plan into action

Please do not email asking what you should do for your absence, you should have a tentative plan in place when you notify me of any absence and that plan should make it clear that you have looked at the cyclesheet for the day or days of the absence. It's ok to have questions or to talk through your plan with me to make changes as long as you have at least some idea of what you will be missing and how you will make it up *before* contacting me.

Absences where you will be missing a test or a lab will be given additional scrutiny and may not be excused. For example, visiting a college will not be excused on a test day and I may ask you to coordinate with your lab group if it's during a lab day.

This information and other class information such as the cycle sheet, links to content, etc. are available on the class website:

<http://iws.punahou.edu/department/acad/physics/apc/>