

Phys 540 Course Information Fall 2003



1. FORMAT OF COURSE:

- Three lectures per week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-1:30 pm in Compton 245
- Appropriate review / discussion time during class
- Regular assignments covering class material
- Some computer assignments
- No exams
- A paper discussing the material of a relevant set of articles from the literature related to the material of the course is to be turned in by the last class. This paper must be written in revtex format (used in Physical Review journals) and should contain a proper set of references. Using the documentstyle [prc,aps] the paper should be at least 7 but not more than 10 pages long and may include equations but not detailed derivations (if necessary they can be included in an appendix). Half a page containing a proposal for the topic of the paper is due during the last class before Fall break.
- A 25/30-minute presentation on the material of the paper is required. Attendance at all talks by other students is also required. This talk should include a motivation, a discussion of the method of solution and experimental data (where appropriate), a discussion of the results, and a summary plus conclusions of the presented material. The use of overhead transparencies is recommended.
- Classroom participation and discussion is useful.
- Reading assignments are also useful.
- Some collaborative efforts encouraged



2. GRADING POLICY:

- Homework problems 30%
- Computer assignments 20%
- Paper 20%
- Presentation 20%
- Everything else including class participation 10%

3. BOOK:

- Textbook: Mattuck - recommended: cheapest physics book in the bookstore; also funny book but not required since its treatment doesn't overlap very well with the presentation of the course.
- There is a textbook being written by myself and Dimitri Van Neck from Belgium. This material will be made available during the semester. Note that this material is very much open to your suggestions!

