

Dear 211 students,

Welcome back for the Spring semester! We hope that you've all been staying well, and we're excited to have you back for instruction.

I'm Sai Paladugu, the Lab Coordinator for Physics 211. This email is just a "welcome" from me and the rest of the Physics 211 lab staff. We have a few weeks until your first live lab session, but we just wanted to reach out early with a few points of information.

course/labs information:

- tons of information on the course can be found on the [course website](#)
- a lot of lab-specific information will appear on the ["Lab Zoom Links" page](#)
- for additional questions, try posting to *Piazza* first. This seems to work out quite well, with staff and students responding quickly, so thanks in advance for your help in making this run smoothly!

lab materials:

- a reminder to get your IOLab device, either by purchase or rental, as they have some lead time. Information can be found on the course website under "required materials." Some of you who are abroad may be unable to obtain IOLabs, and no worry -- we've made the assignments and labs accessible even if you are unable to have an IOLab device in-hand.
- the details of your actual lab activities (Labs 1-4) are all posted on the ["Lab Zoom Links" page](#) (and on the smart.physics announcements tab).
- if you look over the lab activity sheets, you'll notice that a few of the labs require some small materials that aren't included with the IOLab device. These are things that you should hopefully have around your residence / dorm room, but we just want to give you an **advanced warning** on this. **Specifically, for Labs 3 and 4 you'll require something like a piece of string (can be dental floss, etc.) with a length between 30-100 cm. Also, Labs 1 and 2 will require that you have a flat surface (can be the side of a cardboard box, a table surface, etc.) for the IOLab to roll or slide along -- and in some cases the Lab even calls for an inclined surface.** While all groups were able to find these materials pretty easily in the Fall, we wanted to give you a bit of an advanced warning this semester.

schedule of events:

- the current schedules for the prelabs, labs, and orientation assignments, as they appear on both smart.physics and the [course schedule page](#), are up to date.
- Your first "orientation assignment" will open up on [smart.physics](#) this Sunday. The IOLab devices are not actually needed for these initial activities, so don't fret if you have any delay in getting your device (more generally, the prelabs and labs themselves are able to be completed by the students abroad who are unable to obtain an IOLab).
- There will be two more orientation assignments over the next few weeks, and these were set up to help get you familiar with the structure of the lab and how to work with the IOLab device and the data it produces.

questions?

- if you have questions about the IO Lab, Prof. Mats Selen is going to be hosting IO Lab-specific office hours over semester. You can find the schedule and links to the office hours at the bottom of the ["Office Hours" course page](#).

That's it for now. We'll reach out over the next few weeks as we begin to approach our first live Lab sessions. As you can see on the [course schedule page](#), we'll have our first "Lab 0" session in week 3 just to touch base and meet each other, and then a bit of a break until Lab 1 (weeks 5/6 for Groups A/B -- more details on the lab group assignments in the coming weeks).

Best of luck on the start of your semester!

Sai (for the 211 Lab course staff)