Dear 211 students,

A couple of quick notes and reminders about Lab 4, prelabs, the "make-up labs" in Week 15, and the online Lab Practical in Week 15.

**Lab 4 and its prelab:**

- We'll start to meet again next week for Lab 4. Next week (11/9-11/13) the "A groups" will meet, followed by the "B groups" on the following week (11/16-11/20).
- The Lab 4 prelab is now open for some of you (it opens about 4 days before your lab) on smart.physics. Remember that these are due in by 8 am on the day of your lab.
- For the Lab 4 activity (the links for which you can find posted here), you'll again need some string / dental floss / shoe laces (however, please don't ruin your favorite hoodie or shorts just to get some string). Just wanted to give you a heads up on that so you're all prepared.

**Weird prelab score issues on smart.physics:**

- A number of you have let us know about an apparent scoring issue that has shown up for the Lab 2 and Lab 3 prelabs. This issue, where the score shows up as a zero even though previously it was higher, seems to have come up when we increased the points available for "late deadline" submissions. While we thought we had the bug under control, it seems that this apparent mis-scoring is still appearing for some of you. HOWEVER, please don't worry. When this happens, your grade as listed on the gradebook (which is all that matters for your final grad tabulation) remains unchanged (this has been true for every one of the 20-30 students who have reported an issue so far). So please, if you see this issue occur for you, check your gradebook first before contacting your instructor.

**Make-up lab opportunity:**

- For those of you that have missed labs resulting in an absence (ABS) or if you have more than one excused absence (EX, only one of which is allowed), you will have the opportunity to make up that lab during Week 15. (Please note that this is only for missed labs, and not to replace, e.g., a grade of 90% on a lab.) Each lab instructor (myself and the TAs) will host a session at the regular day/time relating to each Lab Section. Any of the four lab activities can be made up during this session. Because this is only for a single week (Week 15), students from both "A weeks" and "B weeks" will join in for the same session.

Based on the number of absences (ABSs) in the system, we anticipate that only a few students will be participating in each Section's meeting, and you may potentially be making up different labs. In the cases where multiple students are making up the same lab in a given Section, you will paired together and you will complete a joint report as usual. In the cases where only one student is there to work on a given lab, the TA will help out a bit more directly in terms of helping you think the experiment and perhaps even acquire data. Because a large fraction of you do not have IOLabs, we
will also be making 4 collections of data (one for each Lab) available, so that you can access relevant data even if you cannot directly perform the experimental activity.

For all of the above cases, we will set up an upload link, and you will upload this "make-up" lab report as usual, with the usual deadline (by midnight the day of or day after your lab Section's meeting). We'll send out another reminder about this in the coming weeks as we approach Fall Break.

Lab Practical "Exam":

Finally, a number of you have asked either me or your primary instructors about the "Lab Practical Exam" that appears in Week 15 of the schedule. This assignment will be administered through smart.physics, and will in many ways be similar to your prelabs, although with some requirements for numerical answers (i.e., delayed feedback-type questions). This assignment will be open for the entire Week 15, due in by that Friday.

OK, that's it for now. We hope you all have a great weekend after a pretty long week!

Best,
BG for the Phys 211 lab team