

Welcome to physics 211!

Once again we want to welcome you to our fully online physics 211 course! One of the biggest challenges with a fully online course is communication, so we will rely heavily on our course website

<https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys211/>

Indeed, there is even a link to this email on the site ☺ So we encourage you to use this as your first resource. With classes starting next week, I thought it might be useful to point out a few links that will be helpful throughout the semester. Perhaps the most important link is the

Required Materials

There are only **two elements** that you will need to pay for in physics 211. The first is the **IOLab** which you may either purchase or rent. It is OK to share the IOLab with a classmate as long as you are in different lab sections and have an easy way to exchange the device during the week (e.g. living in same dorm or house). The second is the **online homework** access code which should be about \$37. You may purchase this online or through the bookstore. Details are on the course website. Note, if you go to the bookstore website it will have several other “recommended” options. Most of those are available electronically for free from our course website.

Schedule

<https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys211/sp2021/syllabus.html> this contains information about deadlines and activities for all of the course components. Below are the activities coming up in the order they are due. Note, our midterm exams will be on Tuesday evenings starting at 8 pm as listed on the course website. We do not yet know the scheduled days and times for our final exam.

Prelecture and Checkpoint

You will notice that Prelecture 1 and Checkpoint 1 are due at 8:00 AM on Tuesday January 26th. That is right, an assignment due before the first lecture. This should take about 30 minutes to complete and hopefully is relatively painless.

Lecture

Lectures will be synchronous starting at 9am, 10am, 11am and noon central time. You will see a tab on the website that provides the zoom link. Note, that in order to join, you will need to authenticate on zoom with your University credentials. The links are active now, so if you want to try it out you should be able to go into the room. We will use iclicker cloud in these lectures. There are instructions for signing up on the course website. Note there is no cost for you. The department has purchased a license for all of the physics classes this semester!

Discussion

Discussions start the first week and will meet using zoom at your scheduled time. Again, see the zoom links tab to join your meeting. Also please review the “zoom etiquette” comments above the links to help ensure the best experience for everyone. The first week is an orientation, so nothing to prepare in advance.

Lab

The first two weeks have Prelabs (due at 8 am on Friday of each week). These are asynchronous online activities in <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/> that can be completed any time before the Friday 8:00 AM deadline. Week 1 doesn't use the IOLab, and Week 2 will introduce you to using the IOLab. Week 3

is the first week that you will have synchronous labs using Zoom based on your lab time. Your prelab will be due at 8 AM the morning of your lab. The easiest way to keep track of the due dates for the online components is using the calendar view in <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu> .

Homework

The first homework will be due on Tuesday February 2nd at 8:00 AM. There is a calendar view in <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu> that can be helpful for keeping track of the deadlines for the prelectures, checkpoints, homework and prelabs. Note that the publishers allow us to give you full access to the online content for up to 14 days without paying. So you can just start learning now and deal with access codes later ☺ The access code can be purchased directly through the publisher in which case the code will be emailed, or through the bookstore in which case they will mail you a physical card with the code on it. Details of the process (including a video) are available on the course homepage.

Piazza

While the course website provides us an opportunity to communicate with you, we also want to help you communicate with each other, so we have set up **Piazza** <https://piazza.com> you can join the course using this link <https://piazza.com/illinois/spring2021/phys211>. Your use of this forum is optional, but many students find it is an effective way to communicate with and help each other. The staff will also monitor this site. Please note that although you may choose to have your posts anonymous to other classmates, the staff is able to identify who made posts. So please keep your posts positive and respectful.

We hope this answers some of your questions about the course and look forward to seeing you in lecture on Tuesday.

Stay well!

Jake and Tim (your physics 211 lecturers) on behalf of the entire physics 211 team.

