

# PHYSICS/ PHILOSOPHY 419 & 420 SPACE, TIME, & MATTER

Spring 2013

Tuesday/ Thursday, 12:30p-1:50p, 144 Loomis

## **Things to do by Thursday!**

1. Read this (and keep for reference) & the syllabus (always on the website).
2. Read grading rubric for written assignments (on Compass).
3. Read the list of assignment-writing suggestions (Compass).
4. Look at the exemplary homework assignment (Compass).
5. Start reading one of the course texts (see syllabus).
6. Start Homework Assignment #1 (see website).

**Your professor:** Philip W. Phillips

[dimer@illinois.edu](mailto:dimer@illinois.edu)

Office hour: TBD (check Compass), or whenever his door is open (2121 Engineering Sciences Building).

## **Your 3 TAs:**

*The guy you'll see in person:*

Karl Decker ([kdecker4@illinois.edu](mailto:kdecker4@illinois.edu)): grading; office hours; writing/ discussion sessions; here to help you! Office hours Wednesday, 3-4p, & by appointment (390N Loomis).

*The TAs who are mostly off-campus:*

Charles Byrne ([bcharles@illinois.edu](mailto:bcharles@illinois.edu)): grading; all things tech (Compass & website).  
Feel free to contact him with questions about grading or the course at any time via email.

Vasilica Crecea ([crecea@illinois.edu](mailto:crecea@illinois.edu)): grader only.

## **Website:**

[courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys419](http://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys419)

Contains SYLLABUS, schedule, lectures notes (beginning with lecture 6), and important information about the course and assignments.

## **Compass (2g):**

<https://compass2g.illinois.edu/>

Watch for announcements, assignments, and some other resources. This is where you will turn in your assignments and where they will be returned, and where you can check your grades at any time.

## **SafeAssign:**

is a program in Compass that monitors for plagiarism. Your submissions will be compared against most public information (internet, journals, etc.) and other students' papers. Take a

look on Compass for more information (including a link for more info should you desire it). If you are concerned about submitting via SafeAssign, let us know. **It is your responsibility to turn your assignment in on time, and to verify that it uploaded correctly.** If you have difficulties, you must contact Charles ([bcharles@illinois.edu](mailto:bcharles@illinois.edu)) *right away*. It will not be deemed an acceptable excuse to contact us at some later time for credit because of a glitch that you claim occurred on Compass or SafeAssign (whereas if you contact Charles at the time that a difficulty is occurring, we can work out a solution). One thing you can do to help in this regard is to not submit at the last minute.

**Plagiarism:**

The penalty for plagiarism will be at least a reduction in points for the first offense, depending on the severity. Second offenses will be referred to the dean of the student's college. With *only* the exception of the first assignment, **you must always quote when using others' words, and must always cite when quoting, paraphrasing, or using others' ideas.**

**English as a foreign language:**

If English is not one of your native languages, academic writing in English may present additional challenges for you. As this is a writing-intensive course, we recommend that you seek out some additional assistance as soon as possible if you have not already. Here is a link with some resources, including on obtaining help at the U of I (link is also on Compass): [www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/esl/](http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/esl/)

**Writing/ discussion sessions:**

May occur. More info on these to follow. (Regardless of these sessions, take advantage of Prof. Phillips' and Karl's office hours, and feel free to email Charles questions about writing or parts of your papers at a time [please don't initially send whole drafts over email].)

**The course:**

Starts off with a bang! The first number of homework assignments **have rapid turnover**, so get started early, don't fall behind, and you will benefit. Start reading and writing right away, submit on time, pay attention to your grader's comments, and use your professor and TAs as resources!