

**Physics 404: Introduction to Statistical Thermodynamics  
Spring 2013**

**Course webpage:** The webpage is on ELMS: <http://www.elms.umd.edu>.

**Course description:** Physics 404 is an introductory course on thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. It is designed for physics majors but also suitable for advanced undergraduate students in other fields, such as astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering and space sciences.

**Prerequisites:** Physics 273 or equivalent, and Math 241. It is desirable to have some basic knowledge of quantum mechanics such as is gained by taking Physics 404 concurrently, but this is not mandatory.

**Lecture:** TuTh 12:30–1:45 in CSS 1113.

**Instructor:** Michael Levin

Phone: 5-6051, e-mail: [malevin@umd.edu](mailto:malevin@umd.edu)

Office hours: Tuesday 1:45 - 2:45 pm and Thursday 3-4 pm in Physics 2220.

**Teaching assistant:** To be determined.

Phone: e-mail:

Office hours: By appointment.

**Textbook:** Daniel V. Schroeder, *An Introduction to Thermal Physics*

**Recommended reading:** F. Reif, *Fundamentals of Statistical and Thermal Physics*

**Homework:** There will be approximately one problem set per week. Each problem set will be posted on the course website on ELMS. The assignment will be due at the beginning of class on Thursdays. **Late homework will not be accepted.**

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam in class on **Thursday, March 14**. The final is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, May 16, 1:30-3:30 pm**. You will be allowed to bring a single (two-sided) sheet of paper, with formulas and other information, to both exams.

**Grading:** Final grades will be based on the homework (25%), midterm (35%), and final (40%).