Physics 275 Syllabus - Spring 2018
Professors Drew Baden, Hassan Jawahery and Fred Wellstood

Official Course Description: PHYS275 - Experimental Physics I: Mechanics and Heat (2 credits) *(PermReq)* Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. *Prerequisite: PHYS161 or PHYS171; and PHYS174. Additional information: CORE Physical Science Lab (PL) Course only when taken concurrently with PHYS272. Methods and rationale of experimental physics. Intended for physics majors and science and engineering students who desire a more rigorous approach. Experiments chosen from the areas of mechanics (from PHYS171), gas laws, and heats. Theory and applications of error analysis.*

What the course is about: Physics 275 is the second course in the introductory Physics lab sequence PHYS 174-275-276. The course is intended for physics majors and also for science and engineering students who desire a more rigorous introduction to experimental science. Experiments are mainly chosen in the general area of mechanics. A major component of the course concerns understanding error analysis, both learning how to do it and appreciating what a useful tool it is. The Lab meets for four hours each week in **Room 3104** of the John Toll Physics Building. You should expect that roughly three hours of this time will be spent working on the lab and one hour in discussion with your instructors and other students during the lab.

To get the latest information on Physics 275, check ELMS Canvas or:
https://umdphysics.umd.edu/academics/courses/962-physics-275-experimental-physics-i.html

Lab sections: All classes meet in Room 3104 in the John Toll Physics Building

section	Day	Time	Instructors	Teaching Assistant
0101	Wednesday	2-5:50 PM	Fred Wellstood	Sun-Ting Tsai
0201	Monday	2-5:50 PM	Fred Wellstood	Sun-Ting Tsai
0301	Tuesday	2-5:50 PM	Drew Baden	Theodore Mefford
0401	Thursday	2-5:50 PM	Drew Baden	Theodore Mefford
0501	MW	9-10:50 AM	Hassan Jawahery	Joseph Mariano
0601	MW	11 AM - 12:50 PM	Hassan Jawahery	Joseph Mariano

Note: *Sections 0501 and 0601 meet twice per week while the other sections meet once per week.*

***Contact Information for Course Instructors:**

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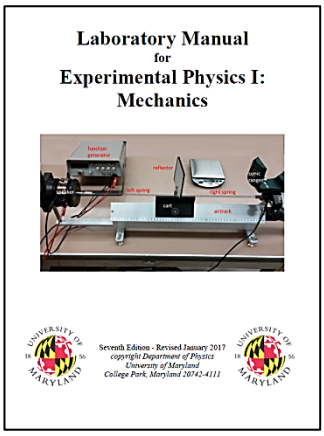
Theodore Mefford	tmefford@umd.edu		
Sun-Ting Tsai	sunting@terpmail.umd.edu	3101 Toll Physics Building	301-405-6191

*** Office Hours:** You can try stopping by our offices at any time or make an appointment by e-mail.
*** Prerequisites:** The prerequisites for the course are Physics 174 and Physics 171 (or Physics161).
*** Co-requisites:** You must also be enrolled in Physics 272 in the same semester in order to get CORE lab science credit.

* **Required Texts:**

(1) "*Laboratory Manual for Experimental Physics I: Mechanics*" – 7th Edition- January 2017. This Lab Manual and access to the Homework Questions for PHYS275 are only available electronically from the online service Expert TA. In order to purchase the lab manual from Expert TA, follow the steps listed below in the section on Expert TA. If the University bookstore incorrectly lists "*no textbook required*" for the course, don't be fooled - you need to purchase electronic access to the lab manual and homework questions by going to Expert TA. In order to buy the manual online you will need the "class code" listed below corresponding to your particular section of Phys 275.



(2) "*A Practical Guide to Data Analysis for Physical Science Students*" by Louis Lyons, Cambridge University Press (1991).

<u>Purchasing the Lab Manual from Expert TA and access to Homework</u>:

1. Locate your section number in the table below and find the corresponding **Expert TA link for the class code** for your specific section.
2. Double-check that you have correctly identified your specific section.
3. Copy the correct link to your sections class code and paste it into your browser, then follow the instructions.

Lab sections:

section	Day	Time	**Expert TA link for class code**	Instructors	TA
0101	Wednesday	2-5:50 PM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-1B163E-1MT	Fred Wellstood	Sun-Ting Tsai
0201	Monday	1-4:50 PM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-B7BADD-1MS	Fred Wellstood	Sun-Ting Tsai
0301	Tuesday	2-5:50 PM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-555107-1MV	Drew Baden	Theodore Mefford
0401	Thursday	2-5:50 PM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-D8EF12-1MU	Drew Baden	Theodore Mefford
0501	M+W	9-10:50 AM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-9DAD2B-1MX	Hassan Jawahery	Joseph Mariano
0601	M+W	11AM -12:50PM	http://goeta.link/USH22MD-B5C5F2-1MW	Hassan Jawahery	Joseph Mariano

*** Recommended Texts:**

(1) "*An Introduction to Error Analysis*", Second Edition, J. R. Taylor, University Science Books (1997).

(2) "*Data Reduction and Error Analysis for the Physical Sciences*" by P. R. Bevington.

*** Arriving late to class:** Classes at Maryland begin right on the hour. It is important that you arrive on time so that you can get instructions for the lab and have time to finish. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you may not be allowed into the lab and will have to make it up during another section.

*** Making Up Missed Labs:** You should make every effort not to miss your regularly scheduled lab. If you miss your regular lab section, you should make that lab up by going to another section that week or by scheduling a makeup lab with the TA before your next lab.

*** Grading:**

40% Spreadsheet Lab Reports
10% Homework
25% First Practical Exam
25% Second Practical Exam

You must complete all experiments to pass the course. *Missing one homework set will cost one-half of a letter grade in your final grade.* Final grades will be computed based upon the above weightings. Standard grading will be followed (A is 90-100, B is 80-90, *etc*.) unless the class's distribution of scores is unusual, in which case a standard curve will be used.

* **Your Lab Report** - Each week, before you leave the lab, you must submit to ELMS Blackboard an Excel spreadsheet lab report of all the work you completed so far. If you need to make revisions to this report, or finish some parts, you must submit a revised report before the start of your next lab session.

*** Homework** is assigned on **Expert TA**. Typically there is a homework assignment at the end of each Lab and it is due before the start of your next lab session. To get credit for completing the homework, you must log into your own area in Expert TA and submit your answers via **Expert TA** before the deadline.

*** No credit will be given for late homework unless you are seriously ill and provide a written note from your physician.**

* The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

*** General Comments on the Lab report and Homework:**

Finishing all the lab reports and homework sets is very important. If you can't completely finish a lab and homework set, it is still important to turn in what you do have. When you are working on your report or homework, feel free to discuss with other students to try to figure out what is going on. However, do not use these discussions as an excuse to copy someone else's report or solution, or let someone else copy yours. That is cheating and is strictly forbidden. It is also very self-defeating since a large part of your grade (50%) will come from tests. The right way to proceed is first to work through the report and arrive at a definite answer on your own. With this preparation, you can then discuss intelligently with your colleagues and see if you have missed something essential. Of course, you can always ask one of your instructors.

In some of the homework assignments, you will see that there are problems labeled with an H. These are optional problems which are intended “For Hotshots Only” and do not count towards your grade. If you like thinking about physics problems, and are looking for something a bit more challenging, then go ahead and try them - we made these problems just for you.

* **In case of bad weather**: Winter in the Washington metro area can bring large snowstorms that make travel difficult and dangerous. If the University is closed during a scheduled lab, class will be cancelled, and we will most likely reschedule the lab for the following week. Closing is announced over local radio and TV as well as on the University’s homepage.

*** One final thing**, if you miss something fundamental in a lab or test, you may be assigned extra problems to solve until you master the concept.

Physics 275 Preliminary Schedule
Spring 2018

(last updated January 2, 2018)

Wednesday -Jan 24	First day of the Spring semester
Jan 24 - Jan 25	Labs will not be meeting
Jan 29 - Feb 1	Experiment 1 - *Introduction and Diagnostic*
Feb 5 – Feb 8	Experiment 2 - *Dice and Distributions*
Feb 12 – Feb15	Experiment 3 - *Statistics of Radioactive Decay*
Feb 19 – Feb 22	Experiment 4 - *Position, Velocity and Acceleration*
Feb 26 – Mar 1	Experiment 5 - *Free Fall*
Mar 5 - 8	Experiment 6 - *First Review (Experiments 1-5)*
Mar 12 - 15	Experiment 7 - **First Practical Exam**
Mar 19 - 22	Week of Spring Break - No Labs
Mar 26 – 29	Make-up Labs
Apr 2 – Apr 5	Experiment 8 - *Standing Waves*
Apr 9 - Apr 12	Experiment 10 - *Driven Harmonic Motion*
Apr 16 - Apr 19	Experiment 12 - *Measuring g with a Pendulum*
Apr 23 - Apr 26	Experiment 13 - *Second Review (Experiments 1,8-12)*
Apr 30 - May 3	Experiment 14 - **Second Practical Exam**
May 7 - May 10	Make-up Labs
Thursday May 10	Last Day of classes for the semester
Friday May 11	Reading day
May 12 - May 18	Week of Final Exams: No Labs
May 19 - May 21	Commencement