

DE ANZA COLLEGE – PHYSICS 50 – WINTER 2026

Instructor: Eduardo Luna
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Office: S56A
Office Hours: MTWTh 1:30-2:20PM
Lecture Hours: 8:30 – 9:20AM, M-TH, RM S34
Final Exam Date: Wednesday, March 25, from 7 - 9AM
Text: PHYSICS 4th Edition Vol. 1 by James S. Walker
Required Calculator: Casio FX-300MS, TI – 30XIIS, TI-30Xa, or equivalent
Advisory: Mathematics 32 and Physics 10.

Note: See MyPortal for last day to drop a class with a “W”. Students who do not drop by this date will be given the appropriate grade for their achievement in the class at the end of the quarter.

OBJECTIVE

This is an algebra-based course in Classical Mechanics. The main objective of the course is for the student to understand the laws/theories and principles of Classical Mechanics in order to be able to describe the motion of a system so that we can better understand the physical world around us. The foundation laws of Classical Mechanics are Newton’s Laws of Motion. Thus, we can equivalently state that the main objective is for the student to learn and understand Newton’s Laws of Motion from a conceptual and practical viewpoint. This course will also help you develop the problem-solving skills as a preparation for Physics 4A. Classical Mechanics is often divided into two parts:

- a) Kinematics – The description of the motion of an object without regard to the forces causing the motion. We will describe the motion of an object (system) moving in 1-D and 2-D.
- b) Dynamics – The description of the motion of an object with regard to the forces that cause the motion. We will use Newton’s Laws of Motion to help us describe the motion of an object (system) with regard to the forces acting on an object.

In our study of kinematics we will learn how to analyze the motion of a particle in 1-D and 2-D. In dynamics we will learn to analyze the motion of a particle (system) by using Newton’s Laws of Motion.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to be in class at the beginning of each class for the rest of the quarter. If you are late **or** absent 5 or more times you will be dropped from the class. However, if you stop attending the class it is your responsibility to ensure being dropped or withdrawn from the course in order to avoid receiving an “F” in the course.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis but will NOT be collected. **However, it is your responsibility to have the homework completed before the following lecture.** It is essential to your success in this course that you put a solid effort into the homework. This is how you will learn physics and succeed in the class. (The quizzes you will be taking will generally be based on the homework problems assigned). If you are having difficulties with the class/homework, here are some things that I recommend to help you succeed in the class:

1. Ask for help during class and attend office hours.
2. Work together and discuss problems with other students in the class
3. Math & Science Tutorial Center.

On the homework, quizzes, as well as on the exams, you need to show all your work in complete detail in order to receive full credit. Your solutions should show your step-by-step process and logic that was used to obtain the answer. **No credit will be given if no work is shown even if you obtain the correct answer to the problem.**

De Anza College Academic Integrity

“The following types of misconduct for which students are subject to disciplinary sanctions apply at all times on campus as well as to any-off campus functions sponsored or supervised by the college: cheating, plagiarism or knowingly furnishing false information in the classroom or to a college officer”

Violating the Academic Integrity Policy will result in a grade of “F” in the class and the incident will be reported to the college disciplinary office.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY

Any DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR during class will NOT be tolerated. If a student is in any way disruptive during the class, the student will be given a warning. If the problem continues, the student will be asked to leave the class and a formal disciplinary report will be filed with the college disciplinary officer. The incident will be recorded in your college record and will be sent with your transcripts to any university/college requesting student records.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The only electronic devices allowed in class are calculators and phones. The use of laptop computers is NOT allowed during class. Phones need to be set on ‘silent’ mode to avoid disturbing other students in the class. Phones or any other electronic device cannot be used to take video of any lecture material during class. Note-taking electronic devices are permitted with instructor’s prior permission.

QUIZZES

There will be a quiz every Thursday. The quizzes will generally be based on homework and lecture material from the corresponding week. Therefore, it is to your advantage to attend every lecture and have **ALL** the homework completed. If you miss a quiz you will get a **ZERO** for that quiz. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES!** Lowest quiz score will be dropped at end of quarter. There will be an extra-credit quiz towards end of quarter.

EXAMS

There will be three exams including the lecture final. Exact dates for exams will be given at least four days prior to each exam. The exam format may be work-out problems, multiple-choice, conceptual, or a combination of the three. Only one of the listed calculators can be used during the exam. The key to the success on the exams is preparation; **DO THE HOMEWORK**, attend the lectures, read the textbook and make sure you understand it, and ask questions if you don’t understand. **There are no make-up exams.** If you miss an exam you will get a **ZERO** for that exam. At end of quarter I will take the average of the lowest and highest exams (including the lecture final) and replace the lowest with the average. You must take **ALL** 3 exams in order to replace the lowest exam score by the average!

Note: If there is a dispute in the grading of any quiz or exam I will consider looking at them a second time **only** if it is handed back to me **within 2 school days** after I return them.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the following components with the weights shown:

Quizzes	25%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Lecture Final	25%

Grades will be determined as follows:

88% --->100%	= A
76 %---> 87%	= B
65% ---> 75%	= C
54% ---> 64%	= D
0 ---> 53%	= F

There is NO Canvas for the class since it is not needed for the class. Make sure to keep all returned quizzes/exams so that you can calculate your current grade at any time during the quarter.