Physics 273 (Spring, 2009)
Fundamentals of Physics 2: Electricity & Magnetism
Syllabus available on Blackboard http://webcourses.niu.edu

Instructor: Prof. R. L. Benbow
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Class Meetings: Room 144 in Faraday Hall at 10:00-11:15, MW and 10:00-10:50 F.

Office Hours: 9:00-9:45 Monday & Wednesday.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Prerequisite: Physics 253, Fundamentals of Physics 1, or equivalent.


Required CPS Pad: The CPS eInstruction Pad is absolutely essential and required for attendance and many quizzes.

Final Exam: Monday, May 4, 2009 in Faraday 144 from 10:00 to 11:50 AM.

When I previously taught this course, I observed that there was great resistance to learning how to use vectors. You can't expect to do the problems in this class without familiarity in the use of vectors. Consequently, I will give quizzes on vectors nearly every day until you demonstrate that you can apply them to your homework and tests. Additionally, we will cover Chapter 3 on vectors that should have been covered in more detail last semester.

In the text, we will cover chapters 21-31. Briefly, these break down into sections:
Electricity
Magnetism
Electromagnetism
AC Circuits.

If there is time at the end of the semester, we might put it all together as Maxwell’s equations (Chapter 32).

Approximate grading scale (Not cast in stone):

Homework, Quizzes & attendance: 15%
Tests (4, drop one?): 40%
Lab (273S): 25% -- A minimum of 60% of the total lab grade is required to pass the course, regardless of total points. Stay caught up, and you should have no problem!

Final exam: 20%

(In the Fall, 2008 semester, I made the Vector quizzes to be extra credit. The CPS system yielded attendance and embedded quiz question data; homework speaks for itself.)
Note:

1. No make-up tests except under special circumstances:
   a. Away representing NIU as an athlete, musician, etc. You should know of this absence ahead of time, and deal with it before hand. (The same can apply to a death in the family.)
   b. In the hospital. This require written proof of excuse.
   c. In jail. Again, written proof is required.

2. No hats or hoods are allowed during exams or quizzes (let the instructor know if this is a problem). No electronic communication or entertainment devices of any kind are allowed (Includes laptops, cell phones, CD players, MP3 devices, etc.) You may use a simple scientific calculator. [Be sure it is one you know how to use. Programmable calculators should not be used. If I am feeling mean, I may let you use one, though. Ask me why that is mean!]

3. Any cheating or plagiarism or other unethical conduct shall be referred to the university judicial office.

More Notes:

1. This syllabus is subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.
2. Students withdrawing during the semester will be subject to a different grade scale.
3. I will not generally be on campus afternoons, or days with no class. See me during office hours. Incidentally, emails about grades will not be answered. If you need to see me outside of office hours, email to make an appointment. I expect that consultations will be limited to seeking help with homework problems.

NIU abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding provision of reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you want to utilize this provision, please contact me early in the semester. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Center for Access Ability Resources (CAAR), the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. CAAR is located on the 4th floor of the University Health Services building (753-1303).