

**PHYS273**  
**Fundamentals of Physics II:**  
**Electromagnetism**

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**CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

*Course Summary: Physical laws governing electricity and magnetism using calculus. Primarily for majors in the physical and mathematical sciences and engineering. One three-hour laboratory a week.*

*Not available for credit to students with credit in PHYS 211, PHYS 251, or PHYS 251A.*

*Prerequisites: PRQ: PHYS 250A or PHYS 253, CRQ: MATH 230*

**INSTRUCTORS**

Michel van Veenendaal  
LaTourette Hall, room 223  
e-mail: [veenendaal@niu.edu](mailto:veenendaal@niu.edu), The best way to reach me is via e-mail.

**CLASS MEETINGS & OFFICE HOURS**

This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:45pm in Faraday Hall 143. I am available to answer your questions or discuss matter related to this course anytime from 2pm to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For other times and/or days please send me an e-mail to schedule a meeting.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OUTCOME**

This course enables students to learn about the electrical and magnetic properties of matter in terms of basic laws of nature. Students will develop problem-solving techniques and acquire skills to describe physical situations using mathematical descriptions to solve problems. The lectures incorporate discussion/solving sessions and experimental demonstrations. The PHYS273 class is supplemented by lab sessions that provides students opportunities to develop experimental skills, learn how to use basic laboratory equipment, and gain experience with redacting scientific reports summarizing their experiments. Students completing this course are expected to develop essential foundations in physical concepts that will prepare them for upper level courses in Science and Engineering.

**TEXTBOOK**

The required textbook is Physics for Scientist & Engineers Volume 2, Fourth Edition, by Douglas Giancoli. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-149508-1 ISBN: 0-13-149508-9, published year: 2009 by Person Education, Inc, Person Prentice Hall.

## ASSESSMENT & GRADING

The assessment will consist of weekly homework, three exam, and a final. The grading will be as follows:

Homework 10% of overall grade (only if lab. grade  $\geq 60\%$ )

Exams 40% of overall grade (each exam count for 10%)

Labs 25% of overall grade

Final exam 25% of overall grade

Students taking PHYS252 will have their grades assigned given the following weights: Homework: 14%, Exams: 52%, Final exam: 34%.

The numeric averaged grade will be computed given the above Table and a letter grade will be assigned following the table below. The scale might be shifted in a direction that improves grades.

Letter grade Percentage points.

A  $\geq 92\%$

A<sup>-</sup>  $\geq 85\%$

B<sup>+</sup>  $\geq 80\%$

B  $\geq 75\%$

B<sup>-</sup>  $\geq 69\%$

C<sup>+</sup>  $\geq 62\%$

C  $\geq 55\%$

D  $\geq 50\%$

F  $< 50\%$

A minimum average lab grade of 60% is required. You will **fail** the course if your lab score is below this mark.

Further information on NIU grading system can be found at:

<http://www.niu.edu/regrec/grading/gradingfaqs.shtml>

There will be no make-up tests. Tests cannot be taken at times other than the class test time.

Only basic calculators can be used during tests. No other electronic devices are allowed.

## HOMEWORK

The homework sets will be available on blackboard.

## LABS & LAB REPORTS (PHYS273 ONLY)

The lab syllabus is provided separately and will be discussed in your lab section by your respective TA during the first lab session. During the laboratory experiments you will be working in small groups to perform the relevant experiments and acquire the associated data. Subsequent to the

laboratory session, each student is expected to analyze alone the acquired data, performed the relevant analysis, and redact his/her own report. The team work should be limited to performing the experiment and acquiring the data only. Each student is expected to write an individual formal report due within a week after the lab session took place.

For TA information, see the lab syllabus.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The students are expected to be engaged learners, to attend the lectures, laboratory session, and participate in the problem solving and/or assist the instructor in experimental demos. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and offenders will be directly referred to the University's judicial office.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center (RDC) as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or [drc@niu.edu](mailto:drc@niu.edu). Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the sooner we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## **SYLLABUS**

The (approximate) lesson plan is as follows:

- Lesson 1: General introduction. Electrostatic: static electricity, electric charges. Coulomb's law, electric fields.
- Lesson 2: Coulomb forces, electric field, continued.
- Lesson 3: Coulomb forces, electric field, continued.
- Lesson 4: Electric flux & Gauss's law.
- Lesson 5: Electric flux & Gauss's law, continued.
- Lesson 6: Electric potentials.
- Lesson 7: Electric potentials, continued.
- Lesson 8: Capacitors.
- Lesson 9: Capacitors, continued.
- Lesson 10: Ohm's law.
- Lesson 11: Ohm's law, continued.
- Lesson 12: DC circuits
- Lesson 13: DC circuits, continued.
- Lesson 13: Magnetic fields.
- Lesson 14: Magnetic fields, continued.
- Lesson 15: Sources of magnetic fields.
- Lesson 16: Sources of magnetic fields.
- Lesson 17: Induction.

- Lesson 18: Induction, continued.
- Lesson 19: AC circuits.
- Lesson 20: AC circuits, continued.
- Lesson 21: Maxwell's equations.
- Lesson 22: Maxwell's equations, continued.

Note the lesson plan is approximate and does not follow the classes exactly. Some subjects might take longer, time is needed for in-class tests, reviews, etc.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES ON PLAGIARISM**

As indicated in the "LABS and LAB REPORTS" section, no form of plagiarism will be tolerated in this class.