Another challenging semester! The specifics of class flow will evolve as we figure out what works best. Outlined here is what is likely fixed. I will alert you to any changes.

Calculating your average (and beyond the numbers):

20% "x" myOpenMath and MasteringPhysics points (sum your totals together)
50% "y" in-class exams (5 exams each worth 10%)
30% "z" the final exam

(your average along the way) = (20x + 50y)/70
(your average at the end) = (20x + 50y + 30z)/100

• x: The "out of" is 80% of the points available on what has come due. You will likely earn points above the "out of", but scores max out at 100%. This is to help you use myOpenMath and MasteringPhysics as tools for learning rather than as something just to get done.

• y: In-class exams will be single-period, worked-problems on paper, hand graded for partial credit. The quality of your documentation is part of your grade. Coverage will be topics that have come due prior to the exam including some review with later exams.

• z: The final exam will be a common final. All sections of SP211P weight the final 30%. I will share more details on this later in the semester.

You are in charge of tracking your numerical average. I do have ±5% flexibility beyond this calculated number. This flexibility nearly always works in the student’s favor and addresses when a student’s performance improves along the way. In the very rare cases where it hurts the student, it will not be a surprise but rather for specific reasons that will have been discussed.

myOpenMath (myopenmath.com):

• Use 1: A few in-class problems (most classes where we cover a topic). These problems if not completed in class can be finished after class but the set comes due before the start of the next topic class. These in-class sets will be made available during class once I have finished the initial lecture part of class.
• **Use 2:** Two (to give a feel for variation) six-problem review exams for each in-class exam. The in-class exams will be on paper, but the questions will be similar in style. Review exams are posted generously ahead of time.

As with MasteringPhysics, attempts are unlimited, so it is up to you to use these tools to help you prepare effectively for exams. With all myOpenMath and MasteringPhysics sets, any late points are worth half credit.

**MasteringPhysics:**

• This is the online homework system tied to our book. All sets (a small set for each topic, and online labs) are open. Sets come due typically about 1 week after the date the topic appears in the course schedule.

• It is up to you to decide on a flow around these sets. Some might even like to work parts before class as a way of getting ready (many of the problems are tutorials).

• MasteringPhysics is also where you will find the eText. I have made a video for each topic that distills my reading of the text. You might enjoy my videos but you might also enjoy the eText itself.

**In-class exams:**

• Single-period exams appear on W in the schedule. The schedule is not rigid; it is a reference so we can see if we are a little behind or ahead. MWF are exam-day options (T we do not have a scheduled room).

• Six problems similar in style to those on the myOpenMath review exams though these will be on paper and I will grade your work by hand for partial credit. Quality documentation is expected and will be part of your grade for the problem.

• Additionally, a “seventh” problem will be an overall grade on the quality of your documentation. This is separate from documentation deductions that can happen on an individual problem. With this seventh problem, I can give a more finely resolved assessment of your documentation efforts overall. All seven problems take equal weight.

• If there is a curve, it is usually an adjustment associated with the difficulty of the exam and the limited single period.

• Exams are “you, paper, pens and pencils, calculator, clean equation sheet”. Laptops, cellphones, smartwatches will be packed away, bags at the back of the room.

**my homepage, Google Classroom, due dates:**

• The equation sheet, the schedule, and this course policy are found at the top of my homepage (https://www.usna.edu/Users/physics/mikulski).
• The main body of my homepage gives the coverage, video, and slides for each topic (a topic is a chunk that is covered in a single period).

• Our Google Classroom will give a daily update for each class that keeps everyone in the know about what we are doing and what’s coming up.

• Separate from Google Classroom, you will need to stay on top of due dates well enough to stay above “max out” in points. Due dates are indicated with each set, but generally speaking there are four time-frames:

  • (1) In-class myOpenMath sets are due before the start of the next topic class.
  
  • (2) MasteringPhysics sets are due typically one week after the topic appears in the schedule (dates stay fixed even if we get a little behind or ahead, a week is plenty of buffer to ride those bumps).
  
  • (3) Sets that come due near exams have a slightly shorter time-frame to make sure the evening before the exam is cleared for exam prep.
  
  • (4) Review exams in myOpenMath will be due a few days after the exam. You will want to complete most problems before the exam, but I don’t want getting myOpenMath points to overly dominate your prep.

Availability outside of class:

• Through about February 19th, my availability outside of class is limited and will likely need to happen in the evening. After this date, my availability is pretty wide open through the remainder of the semester.

• Most EI will be via GoogleMeet. However we decide on a time is fine, but the final steps will be: (1) You set up a calendar event, turn on video conferencing, invite me. (2) I click “Yes” on the invite to confirm our meeting.

• Deep learning in physics is a very private internal process, the best support I can give is when you need some dialogue to get unstuck so you can keep that internal process cranking along. To help with this:

  • Every night I will hold a brief check-in GoogleMeet (9:30pm - 10:00pm?????). These are optional drop-in sessions where I will be there to help with whatever.