

CP / CPA / H Freshman Physics
Syllabus
Wachusett Regional High School – Science Department

Instructor: Peter Cranson

Afterschool Help: Before and after school, by appointment

Email: peter_cranson@wrsd.net

Room: D113

Textbook: CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS, 12th ED. Hewitt ([online pdf copy of textbook](#))

Materials:

Scientific Calculator: Texas Instruments TI-30 (or similar)

Three Ringed Binder or Notebook

Folder

Chromebook, Headphones/ear buds for chromebook



Course Description

Freshman Physics is a physical science course specifically for 9th grade students with a strong mathematical background beginning their high school science curriculum.

This course will expand the understanding of motion, energy, thermodynamics (heat), waves (mechanical and electromagnetic), and electromagnetism. All topics will incorporate basic scientific practices and methods. Projects, both individual and group, laboratory experiments, and research will all be integral parts of the course.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be assigned based on a point total. Powerschool (online gradebook) is up to date at the halfway point and end of each term. Below are *average* point values for class assignments.

Tests- 100 pts

Quizzes- 25 to 80 pts

Formal Lab Reports- 50 - 100 pts

Homework- 5 to 15 pts

Projects- 100 pts or greater

Notebook Checks- 5 to 25 pts

Tests and Quizzes:

Tests will be given at the end of each section and will always be announced in advance. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance and will be given as needed to check for understanding.

Make-ups / Late Work:

You are responsible for any work missed. You should find a friend in class you can contact to get any missed assignments, you should also contact me ASAP to get any missed work.

Refer to the student handbook (top of page 2) for school policy.

1 day absence: 2 days to make up, 2 day absence: 4 days to make up, 3,4,5 day absence: 1 week to make up

If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, work must be turned in immediately upon return from the absence.

NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED

Laboratory: [WRHS Lab Safety Rules](#)

Lab reports come in 2 varieties, abbreviated (50pts) and full/formal (100pts). Abbreviated lab reports will consist of calculations and questions based on the lab. Full/formal lab reports will include the calculations and questions but will also require additional sections outlined on the “Lab Report Format” handout.

Make-ups: If you miss a lab you will have **one week** to make up the lab. Arrangements should be made with me to make up the lab before school.

Honors: All honors students are required to complete a year long inquiry based science project. You will have weekly assignments due every Friday that lead you through the steps of developing, researching, designing, experimenting, and analyzing a science project.

Homework:

Homework is assigned to reinforce concepts and is graded on effort not necessarily correctness. Students should make every attempt to do all of their homework. It's an easy way to help your grade and aid in the learning process. It is also a chance for you to find out where you need help and to ask the appropriate questions. **You are responsible for homework assignments even if you are absent. Make sure you have contact information of someone in your class to contact if you are absent.** Homework **every night** is to review the material covered in class that day. This is in addition to any assigned problems, readings, and worksheets. Class notes are considered “fair-game” on pop quizzes.

It is **your** responsibility to get missed assignments, handouts and worksheets distributed in your absence.

No late homework is accepted.**Notebooks**

Each Student needs a notebook **or** a 3-ringed binder (any size) (with plenty of white lined paper in it) for class notes, in-class work, homework, class handouts, and lab reports. You will also need a scientific calculator. **Your Chromebook, notebook or binder, calculator, and a pencil must come to class with you EVERY DAY.**

Violations of Academic Integrity:

All students' academic work must reflect their own honest efforts. Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to copying homework, papers, lab reports, quiz or test answers; acquiring or disseminating quizzes or tests before they are administered; or using information from the Internet or other outside sources without proper attribution.

Any student known to have cheated will be subjected to penalties, up to receiving “0” for the work. Possible penalties will be made known to each class by the teacher and will be included in the course syllabus.

Students who collaborate with others in cheating by allowing their papers to be copied or by other means will be subjected to penalties commensurate with their involvement, which may include the student receiving “0” for the work or suffering significant grade reduction.

While AI has been a fixture in modern life for many years, it has recently become imperative that the high school set expectations and parameters for its use. While traditional forms of AI can be used in a positive manner to increase efficiency, the aim of this new policy is to limit and control the use of generative AI. Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is able to produce content (written, audio, visual) which bypasses the creative functions of its users. Similar to the school's policy on plagiarism, students at WRHS are responsible for submitting their own work, displaying their own understanding, knowledge and creativity. Like with plagiarism, teachers will be monitoring the use of AI within their classroom and student work. **It is the responsibility of the student to prove that AI was not used** by showing the evolution of their work through outlines, drafts, editing, proper citations, etc. If the student admits to using AI or cannot sufficiently defend the authenticity of their work, the consequence will be the same as plagiarism.

In all cases, the principal or the class administrator along with the department head and teacher will be informed about both the incident and the penalty imposed, and the parent/guardian will be notified. The administration reserves the right to impose other penalties up to and including removal from the course, removal from honor societies, and loss of eligibility for scholarships with “honor” as criteria.

Electronics Use in Physics Class

No cell phone use in class for any reason. Cell phones will be stored daily in a pocket on the wall.

Chromebooks may be used during class to read class documents or work on specific assignments at the teacher’s discretion.

Any uses of cell phones or chromebooks for non-classroom related purposes will result in disciplinary action.

Classroom Rules:

- Be on time and ready for class**
- Be respectful of the classroom and people in it**
- Be honest**
- Be responsible**

Once you and your parents have read this syllabus please fill out the online Google Syllabus Form to acknowledge that you and a guardian have read and understand the rules and expectations of the class.