Physics 136/164: Physics Lab

Content of the Course

This laboratory course covers topics in electricity, magnetism, and optics. Goal: to witness some of the laws and equations of physics "in action." In this course, we will not be "verifying" these laws; they've been tested for hundreds of years and seem pretty sound. Instead, we will concentrate on making connections between what you observe in the lab and the theoretical concepts and equations discussed in lecture and in the textbook.

This separately graded course will, in some ways, parallel the material covered in lecture, but the two courses are not closely tied together. Sometimes you will encounter concepts in the laboratory course first, and at other times you will encounter concepts first in lecture. Occasionally, you may even perform an experiment related to material that is not covered in the lecture class.

Prerequisites

Physics 125/153 or equivalent, with lab, & concurrent enrollment in Physics 126/154.

This schedule, the lab study guide, and other docs are available at: www.plu.edu/physics/courses/

Spring 2026 Schedule of Laboratory Topics

Week of February 2	**No Labs**
Week of February 9	Geometrical Optics
Week of February 16	**No Labs** (Presidents' Day)
Week of February 23	Electric Field and Electric Potential
Week of March 2	DC Circuits I
Week of March 9	DC Circuits II
Week of March 16	**Lab Quiz #1 (see lab quiz study guide)**
Week of March 23	**No Labs** (Spring Break)
Week of March 30	**No Labs** (Easter Break)
Week of April 6	Kirchhoff's Laws
Week of April 13	Electromagnetic Induction
Week of April 20	Thin Lenses
Week of April 27	Diffraction and Interference of Light
Week of May 4	Atomic Spectra
Week of May 11	**Lab Quiz #2 (see lab quiz study guide)**
Week of May 18	**No Labs** (Finals Week)