FE Period Physics
2021-22
Mr. Jacobs

This section will turn in to an honors physics course, in preparation for the AP Physics 1 exam. The students assigned to this section will in a few weeks choose to sign a contract to continue in honors physics, or will choose instead to switch into a conceptual physics section.

The contract for honors physics is on the final page of this document. Please do not sign now – I will have an individual meeting with each student later in September, at which point you may choose to sign.

Honor System:

Woodberry's Honor System applies to every aspect of our lives here at Woodberry Forest. We take the Honor System very seriously. Your name on a test or quiz is an honor pledge, indicating that these assessments are your own work.

However, it is important to understand that science is by its very nature a collaborative exercise. Laboratory exercises and homework assignments will usually encourage work with classmates.

Most nightly work in honors physics is collaborative, once you have written a complete solution to each problem. Please do not discuss an assignment with a student who does not have a solution prepared. However, you are welcome to amend or even completely redo your solutions based on conversations with classmates – just cross out your old work and it won't be graded. (Please be aware that most nightly work in the other physics sections is individual. Usually, only the honors section will be collaborating during study hall time.)

At no time, whether in lab or on collaborative homework, is simply copying another student's work acceptable.

The instructor will explicitly indicate when collaboration is allowed. "Collaboration" does not mean "copying." Rather, you are required to obey the five-foot rule on collaborative assignments:

The Five-Foot Rule

We encourage students to help each other. You may even verbally guide a friend step-by-step through his solution to a problem. However, do not under any circumstances just give someone your solution "to look at later". A friend may, in your presence, look briefly at your work to start himself in the right direction, but no one should ever be using another student's written solution as a detailed reference.

Thus, when you are actually writing something to be turned in, you must be located at least five feet from any other physics student. Do not do your homework while sitting next to someone; rather, sit well apart from one another in a dorm or conference room; or, have a discussion, then separate yourselves to write up your solution.

If you have any question about appropriate behavior in this class relative to the Honor System, please ask.

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Required Materials for the honors physics section:
Have something to write with, and a folder or binder. Eventually, you'll want a cheap scientific calculator (graphing calculators are not necessary). And before our first test in October, you'll want a copy of the *5 Steps to a 5: AP Physics 1* prep book.

Problem sets:
All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified.

Late assignments are not accepted for a grade. However, students who do not complete an assignment will be placed in 5:20 study hall, as well as required to attend a consultation period the next day. All problem sets must be completed to minimum standards in order to remain in this honors section.

E-mail:
You are expected to be in regular e-mail contact, as class announcements and materials will often be sent via e-mail. You should be checking at least once a day. Contents of an email may show up on a quiz.

Promptness to Class:
We expect you to come directly to physics from your previous class, without stopping by dorm rooms or the Fir Tree. We also expect you to be in the classroom when the bell rings if you are not coming from a class or a formal consultation with a teacher. Leave such classes and appointments promptly when the bell rings.

Please be aware that if you do not arrive promptly for class as described above, you may not be allowed to take the daily quiz.

Grading:
Grades are not assigned to 3rd formers in the first marking period. By the end of this period, you will have either opted to remain in the is honors physics section, in which case grades are assigned according to the honors physics contract; or, you will have opted to move to a conceptual physics section, in which case the grade is assigned according to the conceptual teacher's syllabus.

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Contract for 3rd form AP Physics

The fundamental covenant: Your participation in this course is predicated on your having an authentic desire to learn physics at the college level. You pledge to engage with the class in a positive way, working as a team to promote everyone's understanding.

Signed:_____

What the school agrees:

- Your marking period report will indicate an (unweighted) grade of A- each term during the year.
- After AP score reports are released in July, your transcript will be adjusted according to the scale below. **This will increase the overall GPA for all those who earn 3 or above** – which, historically, has been virtually everyone.
- *However, if your in-class performance is better than your AP score equivalent, your transcript will reflect the in-class performance.*

AP Score	Transcript Grade
5	A and honors bump
4	A- and honors bump
3	B+ and honors bump
1 or 2	B

What you agree:

- You will complete assignments thoroughly and on time.
- You will redo assignments as necessary until they meet minimum standards of correctness.
- You will complete appropriate corrections for all tests.
- You will actively participate in and complete all in-class laboratory activities. This means:
    - Appropriately engaging with assigned partners
    - Redoing predictions and experiments as required
    - Focusing on the task at hand; not being distracted by non-physics matters
    - Assisting with setup and cleanup
- You will sign up for and take the AP Physics 1 exam.

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Greg Jacobs, AP Physics teacher *Student*