Cabrillo College
Spring 2026

Physics 10 Lab
Syllabus

Instructor	**Joe McCullough** jomcull@cabrillo.edu
Text	The lab instructions are available on the web here: https://www.cabrillo.edu/physics/10lab/ The textbook from the lecture, Hewitt's Conceptual Physics, offers excellent preparation.
Class Activity	♦ Lab sessions begin with a review quiz on the previous lab. You may discuss the quiz questions with your friends and use your notes. We review the quizzes right away. ♦ A short lecture and demonstration follows. We show you the equipment and offer ideas. Vital safety information is presented here. ♦ Most of the lab time is spent exploring nature using the equipment provided. Your job is to discover patterns and then make predictions that can be tested. This is science. ♦ You record your process and your observations. We oversee your work during the lab and offer help as needed. Don't rush. Plan to explore the equipment for the full 3 hours; any less time will only cheat you. ♦ Your lab work is for YOU. PLEASE NOTE: There is no substitute for attendance at every lab session. If life requires you to miss a lab, the loss is yours—we cannot offer makeup sessions.
Objectives	1. Predict the behavior of physical systems based on conceptual models. 2. Make and record careful observations of the behavior of physical systems. 3. Compare the predicted behavior of physical systems with observed behavior and interpret the results. 4. Draw conclusions regarding the validity of conceptual models based on experimental results.
Content	Motion Force Chaos Energy Atoms & Fluids Radioactivity Electricity Circuits Magnetism Vibrations, Waves & Resonance Sound & Music Light & Color Reflection & Refraction Heat
Learning Outcomes	Investigate physical phenomena experimentally using appropriate equipment and methods, and make valid comparisons with theoretical predictions.

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Schedule Spring 2026

Week	Date	Lab Title	Reference
1	Jan 29	Intro party: *Physics is a Game*	Chapter 1
2	Feb 5	1. Motion	Chapters 2-4
3	Feb 12	2. Newton's Laws & Chaos	Chapters 4, 5
4	Feb 19	3. Energy & Power	Chapter 7
5	Feb 26	4. Fluids	Chapters 11, 14
6	Mar 5	5. Radioactivity	Chapter 31, 32
7	Mar 12	6. Electricity	Chapter 22
8	Mar 19	7. Circuits	Chapter 23
	Mar 25	* * * SPRING BREAK * * *	
9	Apr 2	8. Magnetism	Chapter 24
10	Apr 9	9. Vibrations, Waves & Resonance	Chapter 19
11	Apr 16	10. Sound & Music	Chapters 20
12	Apr 23	11. Light & Color	Chapters 26, 27
13	Apr 30	12. Reflection & Refraction	Chapter 28
14	May 7	13. Heat	Chapter 15-19
15	May 14	Final Lab *** Extra fun adventures	*** Party !!

Chapter references are to Conceptual Physics by Paul G Hewitt, 13th Edition.
Other editions may be substituted, but the chapter numbers may be different.