AP Physics C Course Information

The course is geared towards the two Advanced Placement Physics C Exams given by the College Board in May. The first semester of this course covers Mechanics, and the second covers Electricity and Magnetism, and includes an overall review in preparation for the exam.

Grades

Grades in the course will be determined on the basis of periodic tests, classwork on the packet which includes discussion and explanation, lab reports and possibly other assignments. Tests vary in frequency and in the amount of subject matter covered. Packets will contain work completed in and outside of class, and full credit will be given at the discretion of the teacher, based on student engagement as well as completion. Tests often use restricted questions from past AP exams and therefore cannot be taken home, however students may review past tests at any time in conference with their teacher.

At the end of the first semester there will be a semester exam on Mechanics which counts as 20% of the semester grade. The second semester grade will have 2 mock AP exams and no semester exam.

Calculators can be used at all times, including during tests. Tests will generally be given on Canvas using Lockdown Browser with access to Desmos. Remember to bring your computer and charger on test days.

A	100%
A	90%
A-	85%
B+	80%
B	75%
B-	70%
C+	65%
C	60%
C-	55%
D+	50%
D	45%
D-	40%
F	0%

Letter grades for quarters, the semester exam and semesters will be based the breakdown in the table at left. Grades for every assignment are curved according to this matrix. Score values are not rounded, for example: an 84.9% is a B+ and would not round up to an A- since the grade is already curved. The first semester grade is an average of the percentages from all work throughout the semester for 80% of the grade and the semester exam counts for 20%.

It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a makeup test for excused absences. Students are encouraged to make up work beforehand if they know they will be absent in advance. The assumption is that you will take the test the first day you are back on campus, unless you discuss your situation with your teacher at least 24 hours in advance. Makeup tests may or may not be the same as those given to other students; students who have taken a particular test may not discuss it with students who have not. **An unexcused absence from a test or from any assignment results in a grade of zero for that assignment.**

There will be a due date established for lab reports at the time the lab is done. Notice will be given in class and on the cyclesheet ahead of time. If a student is absent on the day the lab is done, it is their responsibility to schedule a time to make up the lab and a due date will be established then. If a student is absent the day a lab report is due, it must be handed in as soon as they return to school. Labs receive a 5% penalty for every day they are late, after 20 days they receive zero credit. **No one may use data they did not collect if they are absent for a lab, that is considered cheating.**

There are no extra credit opportunities.

Grade Discussions

Tests: we hand back tests in order to focus on what you understand well and what areas need work. Class time is not meant to be focused on adding up scores or projecting future grades. If you have any questions about the grading after the teacher has reviewed the rubric, you must make an appointment to meet with them within the next week. Your teacher will interpret the rubric used and that professional interpretation will stand. One week after the assignment is handed back, the window for making changes is closed. The grade for that assignment will stand as the final grade.

Labs: After a lab is graded, you have one week to discuss that grade. Incomplete labs and labs without appropriate permissions so that we cannot open them by the due date are considered late.

Laboratory Procedures

All laboratory work involves a certain amount of risk of bodily injury because of the materials and equipment needed for meaningful scientific studies. With proper procedures, the risks are minimal. They can, however, become serious if a student (either carelessly or willfully) departs from instructions given. Therefore, all instructions must be followed carefully at all times. Any misuse of laboratory materials is strictly prohibited.

No materials, tools, apparatus, chemicals, or other supplies may be taken from the laboratory without specific permission from the instructor.

Failure to abide by these procedures is cause for disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the course.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Definitions and Consequences

Plagiarism is the act of taking words or ideas that are the work of someone else and, by failing to cite your source, suggesting or claiming that they are your own. If you plagiarize, with or without intention, you are guilty of theft. If you allow your work to be plagiarized, you also are guilty because you become a party to dishonesty. You should expect to be treated similarly. Please refer to the Punahou School Handbook (starting on page 10 with the title Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity) for complete definitions and policies regarding plagiarism.

Here are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Turning in as your own work the work of another student or a past student. This includes copying a document from another student and uploading it as if it was your own work.
2. Taking ideas or words from a published source without making it clear that they have been borrowed by providing proper citations.
3. Taking ideas or words from the Internet without making it clear that they have been borrowed by providing proper citations. This includes using any sort of AI for labs, if it is used, it must be cited.
4. Taking bits and pieces of the work of others, including scientific publications, without indicating that they are not your own. (Changing the words in a passage does not make it your own.)
5. Proper paraphrasing of ideas or concepts that you read means that you summarize and synthesize the work in your own words. If you only change a few words or copy from a source without putting what you copied in quotation marks (and provide the proper citation) you have plagiarized someone else's work.
6. Using any form of AI to write answers for any quiz, test or exam problems.

Cheating is as serious an offense as plagiarism. If you help another person cheat, you also are guilty because you become a party to dishonesty. You should expect to have similar consequences.

Here are some examples of cheating:

1. Obtaining help from or giving help to another student without authorization during a quiz, test, or exam.
2. Using data you did not collect to do analysis and come to conclusions on a lab report.
3. Submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.
4. Using books, notes, AI or any unauthorized sources of information during a quiz, test, or exam.
5. Obtaining, without authorization, part or all of a quiz, test, or exam, before taking the quiz, test, or exam. Specifically, this includes discussions between a student who has taken a quiz, test, or exam in an earlier period and one who will take it at a later time.

Summary of plagiarism and cheating:

Teachers in the Science Department will report all instances of plagiarism and cheating (which includes helping someone else plagiarize or cheat) to the deans. If you plagiarize or cheat, once in a course, you will fail the assignment with a grade of zero. If you plagiarize or cheat twice in a course, you will fail the course for the semester. The deans will also impose consequences **in addition** to those imposed by the Science Department, which may include a notation in your file, demerits, conferences with your parents, suspension and/or expulsion from school.

General Classroom Behaviors

Class is 85 minutes of phone-free life. Phones will generally not be used in class and must be silenced and placed in the phone caddy so they are completely unavailable – **do not look or check your phone at any time during class**. Students going to the restroom will be asked to leave their phone in the classroom. Let anyone who wants to contact you know that you are unavailable during your physics class. This applies to smartwatches or other devices, do not use them for texts or emails and keep them on silent or dnd to make sure they do not vibrate while you are in class. If your teacher sees anything pop up on a smartphone that is not related to the time, including notifications, she will likely ask you to take it off for the rest of class and to refrain from wearing it for the rest of the year. The Punahou Handbook includes more details on phone use starting on page 18.

Don't use earbuds or other devices to listen to anything from your phone, computer or watch. Be present with your peers and engage in collaborative learning.

All work will be done with the packets handed out in class, on paper. No use of iPads is allowed during class, however, they are welcome as study aids outside of class.

AI Use

No use during class unless specifically allowed. Some students have had success getting summaries of the packet pdf from an AI like ChatGPT that they use when studying, some have fed in the practice tests to create additional practice questions, etc. During labs the use of AI is encouraged for any coding.

Absences

What do you do if you know you will be absent?

- Review the cyclesheet on the class website
- Consider all work to be missed in all classes, not just this one
- Create a realistic plan for making up all work, with tentative deadlines
- Do your best to do as much before the absence as possible
- Share your plan with your teacher and modify the plan to finalize it with her approval
- Put the plan into action

Please do not email asking what you should do for your absence, you should have a tentative plan in place when you notify me of any absence and that plan should make it clear that you have looked at the cyclesheet for the day or days of the absence. It's ok to have questions or to talk through your plan with me to make changes as long as you have at least some ideas of what you will be missing and how you will make it up *before* contacting me.

Absences where you will be missing a test or a lab will be given additional scrutiny and may not be excused. For example, visiting a college talk on campus will not be excused on a test day and I may ask you to coordinate with your lab group if your absence falls during a lab day.

Additional Resources

Open Stax Physics - free, online textbook
AP Classroom - sign in using the code sent in an email and access many excellent resources all focused on AP Physics C content like videos, practice problems for specific topics and practice AP exams.
Past students recommend Youtube channels like Flipping Physics, Organic Chemistry Tutor, We are Showboat, Dan Fullerton and others. Ask your peers or ask your teacher for more.
Learn more about active learning through tutorial style peer teaching: PER sources

This information and other class information such as the cycle sheet, links to content, etc. are available on the class website:
http://www.fizzixprof.com/apc.html