Department: Physics and Astronomy

Course Information: General Physics 1 PHYS 2013

Instructor: Professor Kaylee Ganser

Below is information about the sections of the course, the number of LAs we expect to hire per section, and the meeting times that you will be expected to attend for each section.

Before you apply, ensure that these times fit into your schedule.

Section #	Expected Number of LAs for this section	LAs need to attend course functions at the following times:
21	2	MW 2:00-3:50 PM lecture

In addition to being available for the times listed above, working as an LA also requires the following:

1. All LAs must meet weekly with their faculty member to prepare for the following week's events at a time mutually acceptable to the faculty and LA
2. **All new LAs** must be available to attend a training from 4:30pm – 8pm on Monday, August, 2026 (if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending this training, please contact Carrie Misuraco at cmisurac@d.umn.edu)
3. **All *new* LAs** must be available to complete training on one of the following weekly times:
   Wednesdays 3-3:50pm
   Wednesdays 4-4:50pm
   Thursdays 2-2:50pm

What will an LA do in this course?

The role of the LA varies slightly in each course. Read below for more information on the LA's role in this course.

What is the role of the LA in this course?

LAs in this course will help their peers solve problems in groups, both by answering student questions and by asking questions to check their peers' understanding. LAs will be able to use their own prior experiences in learning physics to help others identify places where their physical understanding is inconsistent with Newtonian mechanics and offer insight on what helped the LA make sense of the material.

Every week, the LAs will meet with the instructor to discuss the course material, practice identifying where students are confused on the material, and discuss methods for addressing those points. LAs will also provide valuable feedback about common student concerns, how students have been solving problems, and offer suggestions based on their observations.

How could being an LA for this course benefit you?
There are several benefits to being an LA for this course.

The first is that, in the process of teaching physics material, one deepens one's own understanding of the material, as well as sharpening their critical thinking skills. This will provide a solid foundation for future courses and beyond.

The second is that you will gain valuable teaching experience. If you want to go to graduate school after undergrad, then it is likely (especially if you go into a physics grad program) that you will teach at some point. Starting as an LA can be an excellent first step into teaching, and, as my course in particular is taught based on research-based instructional methods, you will learn about the research in PER (physics education research). Even if you do not directly teach, it is very likely that you will still need to communicate difficult concepts to someone who does not have as deep an understanding as you do, and learning about best practices in education can help you.

Lastly, this is an excellent opportunity to determine if you like teaching (either in physics or in general), which could help inform your future career plans.

Additional Questions: