

PHYS 6321: Classical Mechanics Syllabus

Professor Allison Deiana
Spring 2020

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1 Course Information

Where?	157 Fondren Science Building
When?	Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 – 10:50 AM
Instructor	Professor Allison Deiana Office: 32A Fondren Science Phone: (214)-768-1476 Email: adeiana@smu.edu Twitter/Instagram: DeianaDr
Office Hours	Where: 32A Fondren Science Building When: By appointment, I am generally more available in the afternoons
Course Textbook	Classical Mechanics. (2nd or 3rd Edition) by Herbert Goldstein

2 Course Objectives

As described in the SMU Graduate Course Catalog:

“Topics in classical mechanics, including the mechanics of a system of particles, the two-body central-force problem, Lagrange’s and Hamilton’s formulations, the special theory of relativity, Hamilton-Jacobi theory, and continuous systems and fields.”

The objective of the course is that students will be able to apply their knowledge of Classical Mechanics in solving graduate-level physics problems.

3 Tests, Assignments and Grading

Your course grade will be based on homework (40%), three tests (40% total), and a cumulative final exam (20%). Questions concerning grading of returned assignments will be accepted by the instructor via email **only** within 7 days of the posting of grades.

The grading scale used in this course is standard and that recommended for courses at SMU. For the ranges, a “[“ or “]” indicates the adjacent number is included in the range, while a “(“ or “)” indicates the adjacent number is excluded from the range.

3.1 Class Preparation

Reading will be assigned from the textbook for each class period, as a resource to you for class preparation. This will be announced in class and on the course Canvas page. You

Grade	Range	Interpretation
A	[94,100]	Excellent Scholarship
A-	[90,94)	Excellent Scholarship
B+	[87,90)	Good Scholarship
B	[84,87)	Good Scholarship
B-	[80,84)	Good Scholarship
C+	[77,80)	Fair Scholarship
C	[74,77)	Fair Scholarship
C-	[70,74)	Fair Scholarship
D+	[67,70)	Poor Scholarship
D	[64,67)	Poor Scholarship
D-	[61,64)	Poor Scholarship
F	[0,61)	Fail

will get the most out of lecture periods if you have taken some time to familiarize yourself with the material in advance.

3.2 Homework

- Homework will generally be assigned on Monday and will be due the following Monday, though I will not have homework due on test weeks.
- Solutions must be handed in to me at the beginning of class on the Monday that they are due.
- It is permitted to work in study groups for homework, provided that individual work is turned in.
- If you are not able to turn your homework in on time, the maximum score you can receive for the homework diminishes by 10% for each late day (e.g. 1 day late = maximum score of 90%).
- If you are unable to turn your homework in on Monday, and are unable to locate me on the day you want to turn it in, you can slide it under my office door or scan it and email it. For grading purposes, it counts as turned-in at the time you slide it under my door.

3.3 Exams

There will be three exams (Exam 1: Monday, Feb. 10th, Exam 2: Friday, March 13th, Exam 3: Monday, April 13th) and a final cumulative exam (Tuesday May 12, 8-11 AM).

4 Homework and Other Written Materials Policy

This policy applies to homework, tests, or any other written material that you submit for grading. The following information must **always** be at the **top of the front page**.

- Your full **name**.
- The **name of the assignment** (e.g. Homework 1)
- The **date** you have turned it in.

For full credit, your work must also satisfy the following criteria:

- Each question is **titled** (e.g. Problem 1).
- Writing/image quality must be **legible**.
- **Work done** in obtaining the solution must be included. It must be possible to follow the logic of your solution.
- Final answers must be **boxed** and have **correct units**.

5 University Honor Code

The student code of conduct can be found in the 2018 - 2019 Student Handbook which is available on the SMU website (<http://smu.edu/catalogs/>). All students will be expected to adhere to it. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing another's work will be given a zero for that assignment and a complaint will be filed through the Vice President for Student Affairs Office.

6 Disabilities Accomodation

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS> to begin the process. Once approved and registered, students will submit a DASS Accommodation Letter to faculty through the electronic portal DASS Link and then communicate directly with each instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

7 Policies Regarding Planned Absences

7.1 Religious Observance

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence (<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/Chaplain/ReligiousHolidays>).

7.2 Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See 2018-2019 University Undergraduate Catalogue)

8 Course Schedule Overview

- **Weeks 1–4: Chapters 1-3**
- **Weeks 5–9: Chapters 4-6**
- **Weeks 10–12: Chapters 7-8**
- **Weeks 13–16: Chapters 9-10**

9 Important Dates

Please see this page ([link in pdf](#)) for the full academic calendar.