



AP Physics 1
Mr. O'Neal
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Grading Scale:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=below 60%

Course Overview:

Physics is the study of matter, its properties and the changes it undergoes. As such, it is the basis of every other field of science. Physics plays a vital role in your daily life and the complex workings of the world we live in. No field of science is complete without a basic knowledge of Physics. In addition, the study of Physics will help you learn how to think, how to apply information, how to solve problems and reason logically. No matter what career aspiration you have, these skills will be vital to your success.

Textbook:

The book you will be using this year is Physics by Giancoli

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are not allowed to be used in the classroom. If you are expecting an important/urgent call please let me know before class. If I catch you using your cell phone in class:

1. Warning
2. Taken and given back at end of class
3. Taken and given back at the end of the day
4. Administrative involvement

Practice (20%)

Laboratory Activities

The laboratory component of this course is crucial to developing your understanding of science as a process, rather than just an accumulation of facts. The laboratory exercises tie everything we are learning in class together with your observations and the questions you will be investigating.

Most laboratory investigations are performed in pairs or groups of three. Each person in the group is responsible for obtaining a copy of the data on the day of the lab. Don't assume someone else is getting your copy of the data—what if they are absent the next day? Each person will turn in their own lab report, even if the data is the same. When a formal lab report is due, it must be typed. Some of your lab report will be exactly the same as your lab partner(s), but the conclusion will always be your own work.

Homework

To be successful in Physics this year, it will be important to apply what you have learned in class and to practice independently. By completing homework, you will achieve these goals. You may help your peers, but you cannot simply copy another's work. In addition, you must not let your friends copy your work—they are using your brain and are learning nothing in the process. You must individually work and think to learn the skills and information needed.

Homework will be graded on completion as long as you, the student, have **legitimately** given your best effort. Furthermore, to ensure you have grasped the concept, you will be asked to present your answers to the class via group whiteboard presentations.

Assessments (60%):

Quizzes are essential for both you as the student and me as the teacher. It will inform both parties of the comprehension of the material that has been covered. Furthermore, your quiz grade will be a good predictor of your exam grade. If you do poorly on a quiz, while it will not impact your grade tremendously, you will need to study even harder for the exam.

Exams are a large portion of the final grade. It is essential that you put in the time to study outside of class in order to achieve a high grade. I will be available as much as possible to give as much help as each individual student needs.

Retaking Exams:

Students are allowed one retake per each exam. It is my belief that a student should not be punished for having an “off” day. Each student has one week to make up or retake an exam.

Because quizzes have a minimal impact on the grade, they **cannot** be retaken.

Attendance:

You will find it very difficult to learn the material presented in Physics if you are absent frequently. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential. In Physics, approximately 25% of the coursework involves lab investigations which will be extremely difficult to make up. The material we are learning is analytical and cumulative. If you are absent, gaps in notes, activities, and labs will be difficult to fill. Please notify me **IN ADVANCE** if you know that you will be absent for an exam or lab investigation, unless it is an emergency. Upon your return, it is **YOUR** responsibility to see me regarding making up any work and the timeline to do so.

3 tardies will result in an after school detention (A.S.D)

Academic Honesty:

At Higley High School, our motto is “United in Excellence and Honor”. That means that every student will do their own work at all times. I will do what I can to ensure that your grade represents work that you did.

YOU WILL RECEIVE ZERO CREDIT IF YOU ARE CAUGHT CHEATING ON AN EXAM OR QUIZ.

Late Work/School Events:

Physics students are motivated students who are often actively involved in HHS and are school leaders. As such, you may need to miss class for school events. Please make arrangements early to avoid missing assignments. Attendance on test days is especially important. Please see me in advance if you know you will be absent for a test.

Assignments in the practice category will not be accepted late. Labs and projects will be accepted up to one week late for 75% credit.

Retakes: Students must complete teacher assigned tutoring to retake a test. Students have up to one week from date of return to retake a test.

What You Can Expect from Me:

I believe that Physics is one of the most important and interesting fields of science because of its capacity to change the world we live in. I will passionately share my love of Physics with you and help prepare you for any career and college-level course that you decide to pursue. You can expect me to give every bit of energy I have to help you be successful.

I will demand the best out of every one of you because I know that you are all capable of success in this classroom.

My Expectations for You in Physics:

This is a college-prep course. As such, you will need to do your best work and be prepared to put in the time necessary to be successful. My job is to help you understand the material and I promise to give 100% to that goal. However, I can't learn the material for you—you are solely responsible for your success!

I am proud of you for making an investment in your future and taking on the challenge of Physics. I expect you to be in class, on time with your work, prepared each day, respectful of others, and willing to do your best.

Teacher Contact Information:

The best way to reach me is through email. My email address is michael.oneal@husd.org . I try very hard to answer your emails within 2 school days. If you need to call me, please call the school and leave a message.

Grades will be weighted as follows (% subject to change):

Practice: 20%

Assessment: 60%

Final Exam: 20%

Grade Rounding:

If a student shows continued effort and is clearly invested in the class. I will, at my own discretion, will round their grade up to the next letter. For example an 89.5% would round to an A; an 89.4% will NOT.

Grade Check:

Please check Parentvue for you student's grade. https://parentvue.husd.org/login_PXP.aspx

Supplies Needed: (See me if you cannot provide these)

TI-30X IIS or better calculator (approximately \$10-\$15)

4-pack of Expo Markers (Black is best) (\$6-\$8)

Box of Kleenex

1 ream of paper

Diversity

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Higley High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

Discipline:

As you are in high school Physics I would not expect to have behavior problems. However, if they do arise, I will follow the tiered outlines as listed in the code of conduct for Higley High School.

Hats:

No hats are allowed inside the classroom at HHS.

Absences:

Definition: An absence is defined as a student's non-attendance in the student's assigned classroom during an assigned period. The difference between an excused absence and an unexcused absence is parents have followed procedures to excuse a student by calling the attendance line. However, the accumulation of excused and unexcused occurrences will result in potential consequences. ALL absences accrue towards the limit of 10 per semester.

Higley Unified School District has implemented a limit of ten absences per semester. If the student acquires ten or more absences during a semester, the student will lose credit in those classes. To earn credit while auditing a class, the student must submit an appeal to administration, attend all classes after the appeal is presented, and pass the semester final exam with a minimum of 75%. Subsequent appeals can be appealed to the School Board.

Interactive Notebooks (INB)

This year Higley High School is implementing school wide interactive notebooks. The purpose of these notebooks is to enhance the learning experience of all students in the classroom and make the learning experience more fulfilling. You will be required to bring this notebook **every day** to class. Failure in doing so will lose points off of your grade.

Philosophy

I look forward to having your bright students in my classroom. It is a great passion of mine to inspire young minds for tomorrow. Science is a subject I believe all students should have a firm grasp of before they enter the "real" world.