PHY 140 SYLLABUS
How Things Work
Winter 2009 Semester

Instructor: Libby Stoddard, Ph.D.
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office hours: MR 10:00-11:00am or by appointment

Objectives: Without complicated calculations, this course conveys an appreciation for physics by finding its principles in everyday experiences.


Material Outline: Kinematics and Dynamics of Objects; Thermodynamics, Electricity and Magnetism, Mechanical and Electromagnetic Waves; Light and Optics, Elements of Modern Physics. (Some flexibility in the outline is assumed depending on the group’s interests.)

Homework: There will be assignments for which the solutions have to be turned in for a grade. The solutions should be neatly prepared (one problem per page). Comments describing the physical situation in the problem and justification of the steps should be included along with the mathematical solution. Homework will be assigned each Monday. Homework is due in one week and will be collected before the lecture. (Late submission will not be accepted.)

Quizzes: At the beginning of each lecture, there will be a short quiz concerning topics discussed during the previous meeting.

Grade Composition: attendance: 60 %   Grading Scale: A (-): 90% or higher
homework: 20 %   B (±): 80-90%
quizzes: 20 %   C (±): 70-80%
(premium for involvement:) 10 %   D (±): 60-70%

Conduct: The students are obliged to behave in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. In all cases of academic dishonesty, an academic judgment will be made about the student's grade on that work and in that course. The alleged academic dishonesty will be reported to the Primary Administrative Officer.