

Syllabus for PHYSICS X
Qualitative Reasoning in Physics
Fall 2009

Class Times: TBA, Room TBA

Instructor Information: Dr. Mike Larsen

Office Phone: 865-8280

Office Hours: Mon and Wed 10:10-11:00; Tues 11:00-12:00 (or by appt)

Office Locations: Bruner Hall, Room 218 and/or Room 601 and/or Room 109

Email address: LarsenML@unk.edu (please use sparingly; I'd rather talk to you in person if you have a question or a concern.)

Course Description

This is a course designed to (i) help prepare undergraduate physics majors to take the Physics GRE exam, (ii) develop general test-taking strategies, (iii) acquire a crash-course in sub-disciplines of Physics not covered in the typical UNK undergraduate curriculum, (iv) develop skills related to “solving problems without solving problems” by using techniques like dimensional analysis and scaling, and (v) other topics as student interest suggests.

Textbook

None, however handouts will supplement the lectures/discussions.

Attendance Policy

This is a specialized course for majors. Nobody is required to take this course. However, I want this to be a relatively stress-free course. Because of this, 50% of your grade is based on attendance alone.

Classroom Policies

This is meant to be a laid-back course. Typical classroom etiquette may be relaxed somewhat. Be respectful to each other and the instructor, and everything will be good. As long as your activities don't break any laws or disturb the rest of the class, I probably won't have any problem with it.

Grading

50% attendance, 50% for 4 take-home practice GREs. The practice GRE exams will count towards your class grade only insofar as you demonstrate that you put forth effort. If you show up all the time and turn in your take-home practice tests, you'll get an A. (No matter how poorly you score on the exams).

There are no graded exams. (I'll grade your practice exams to see how you do, but your score does not influence your grade). There is no other homework. There is no final.

UNK ADA Statement – Students with Disabilities

The university is committed to providing support for students with disabilities. If you are a student with physical, learning, emotional, or psychological disabilities you are encouraged to stop by room 163 in the Memorial Student Affairs Building, the Academic Success Office and make an appointment with David Brandt, the Disabilities Coordinator at 308-865-8214 or by email at brandtdl@unk.edu.

If you have an accommodation plan please see me as soon as possible, so we can make any arrangements necessary for your learning. No accommodations can be provided until a Reasonable Accommodation Plan is in place. Please remember, plans are not retroactive and cannot be used for assignments prior to the date of my signature.

To the greatest extent possible, University Representatives, shall observe confidentiality with respect to any request for accommodation.