Instructors

Dr. Jim Clarage, Robertson Hall, room 109  
Email: claragj@stthom.edu  
Phone: 713-525-6079

Dr. Louis McLane, Robertson Hall, room 108  
Email: mclanelt@stthom.edu

Emailing your professor {etiquette}

Put the course name in the Subject line of your emails, e.g., “Univ Phys I”  
Dr. Clarage does not read email after 8pm, and not at all on Sundays.

Clarage Office hours

M/W/F  11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Tues/Thurs:  3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Other times by appointment.

McLane Office hours

Tues 10-11 am.

Text and supplies

- Text / Manual: The lab manual for the course, with instructions for all experiments, will be posted on WebAssign (which we’re using for lecture).
- Lab notebook: You should purchase a lab notebooks to use in lab. It should contain blank bound pages, ie., not loose-leaf or spiral.
- Shoes: You must wear closed toe shoes in lab.
- Calculator

Course Description

Physics 2111/2112 is the Laboratory to accompany the University Physics I/II lecture courses. The lab provides “tangibles” (hands on experiments) and “visibles” (computer modeling) to accompany the “ponderables” of the lectures and textbook.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes (called Course Objectives in old days)

Each student is to become familiar with procedures and methods of laboratory experiments including the setup and calibration of equipment, the collection and analysis of data by hand and by computer. Each student is to become proficient in reporting of experimental procedures and results. Students will also learn how to computationally model physical systems.
More specifically the student will

- Learn to apply course materials (to improve rational thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
- Develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field (e.g., natural science and engineering)
- Acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team
- Develop skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing

**Blackboard**

Blackboard (http://gregory.stthom.edu) will be used mostly to post grades and syllabus. All tech questions/problems (e.g., your account, password, browser problems, etc) should go to the university Help Desk: ithelpdesk@stthom.edu or (713) 525-6900.

**Grading**

Your final semester grade will be based 75% on the weekly laboratory work and 25% on the final practical exam. More specifically,

- 70% laboratory work (mini lab reports, lab participation)
- 10% quizzes (pre-lab, post-lab, etc.)
- 20% final exam

The letter grade for the course is based up these course percentages:

- A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (67-69), D (60-66), F (0-59)

NOTE: students who earn a "C" or lower on any assignments must visit the Tutorial Services Center and/or ust.askonline.net for assistance.

**Lab notebooks**

These are not graded, but are a good idea. Your lab notebooks are the authentic records of your experiments. You may also use this record on your final exam!

**Mini Lab Reports:**

The Mini Lab Report contains all raw data, and the calculations of final experimental results. Fill out the lab sheets during the lab or develop your own template in the form of excel tables during class. Attach additional pages to show sample calculations, answers to questions, graphs and a short analysis and conclusion (how do experimental and expected results agree, error sources, how you could improve the results). Before leaving lab you must “Check Out” by having the instructor sign your raw data. The report is DUE by end of lab (and may occasionally be extended to 24 hours).

**Quizzes**

Quizzes are given at the beginning of the class period to assess your preparation and reading of the material on the experiment as described in the Laboratory Manual. You are not allowed to use the Lab Manual during the quizzes; however you may use handwritten notes in your Lab Notebook.
Attendance

“The University expects all students to be regular and punctual in class attendance. Frequent unexplained absences may result in a student being administratively withdrawn from the course or in a grade reduction or failing grade, at the discretion of the faculty member” (Page 67 Undergraduate Catalog 2007-2009). Every experiment must be done and the report/notebook submitted. A missed lab can only be “made up” under conditions agreed to with the instructor; which the student must initiate the week of the missed lab by contacting the instructor (in person, email or phone). Failure to complete a lab will result in zero for that experiment.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

Academic Honesty

All students are subject to the university’s Policy on Academic Dishonesty and the UST Student Handbook. This extends to any quizzes taken online via Blackboard.

Breakage Fee:

Lab equipment and glassware (e.g., lenses, prisms...) are not covered by the “lab fee” of the University. If you break any equipment/glassware during an experiment you will be expected to pay for its replacement. So please work carefully.

Lab Safety:

Shoes: You must wear closed toe shoes in lab.

Backpacks: must be placed against the wall.

No food or drink (exception: water in backpack)

Cell phones: for both safety and pedagogy, cell phones may not be used in lab (you may store phones in your backpack or pocket). If you need to take an emergency phone call, ask the instructor for permission to leave lab.

Failure to comply with any of these safety regulations can result in points being deducted from the grade for your lab sheet or lab report for that day.

Class Schedule:

See the lecture syllabus for weekly schedule of lectures and labs.

The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable changes to the syllabus during the course. In this event any necessary changes will be posted online and announced during class.