Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Course Number and Title: PHYS 4300: Classical Mechanics

Instructor Name: Dr. Tikhon Bykov

Contact Information:
- Office: S110D,
- Phone: 793-4875,
- Email: tbykov@mcm.edu

Office Hours:
- Monday 2:00 pm-5:30 pm;
- Tuesday 1:00 pm-5:30 pm;
- Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm;
- Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm
or by appointment.

Catalog Description: This is a required course for Physics majors. The first of two parts, this course is an in-depth study of kinematics, dynamics, central force motion, harmonic motion, and related areas of Mechanics. A strong mathematical focus, using Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalism, is taken.

Pre-requisites: PHYS 2520, MATH 3341,
Working knowledge of calculus at the level of Math 3341. Some knowledge of multi-variable calculus and linear algebra (MATH 3301, MATH 2340) will be useful. You should also be comfortable with the material of Phys 2510.

Course Overview:
Classical Mechanics (3 cr.) is the upper division calculus-based science course primarily intended for Physics and Pre-Engineering majors. The subject of Classical Mechanics is a study of macroscopic mechanical systems at low speeds obeying principles of Newtonian Mechanics. This subject will be considered from different standpoints of Newtonian, Lagrangian and Hamiltonian methods. One of the main objectives of this course is to demonstrate natural connections between these approaches as well as the advantages of particular approach towards solution of specific problems. We shall study applications of these methods for description of real physical systems including Central Force and Oscillatory Motion problems. The objective of the student is to develop the skills necessary to analyze the behavior of simple mechanical systems based on variety of mathematical methods of Classical Mechanics. The skills developed in this class should form the basis for consideration of any mechanical system. These skills can be further developed in applications to more complex problems of engineering physics and quantum mechanics.

Course Objectives:
- Students will demonstrate conceptual understanding of the basic principles of classical mechanics.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the Lagrangian formalism towards solutions of various mechanical problems.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the Hamiltonian formalism towards solutions of various mechanical problems.
- Students will demonstrate conceptual and practical understanding of the classical mechanical systems, such as 1) Central Force problem, 2) Simple Harmonic motion, 3) Collisions
Course Materials and Support:

Required Course Materials:


Class web page is located at [http://www.mcm.edu/~bykov.tikhon/phys4300/phys4300.html](http://www.mcm.edu/~bykov.tikhon/phys4300/phys4300.html) Most of the course assignments will be available through the course account on Moodle. The access to the Moodle web site is password protected and available through the Student Portal at the main McMurry web site ([http://www.mcm.edu](http://www.mcm.edu)).

Optional or Recommended Course Materials:


AEC and Other Educational Support Resources:

Your instructor is normally available at the posted office hours or by appointment. You may drop in outside regular office hours without an appointment but may be asked to come back later. You may ask questions by e-mail. This usually works fine for short questions about a specific concept or method, but do not expect that the instructor will do the whole assignment for you. Your instructor and fellow students won't be much help if they merely provide answers.

Course Policies:

Attendance:

It is understood that attendance is part of the learning commitment — placing oneself in a class setting where effective educational communication and interaction can happen. Students are expected to be regular and punctual in their attendance habits. The students who are late may not be admitted to the classroom. Attendance is required and will be noted. Any necessary absence occurring while a student is representing the University in some official way will be considered an authorized absence. Work missed due to such an absence is to be made up as the instructor determines. All the homework which is due prior or on the day of the authorized absence is to be turned in before student’s departure. It is the students’ responsibility to inform the instructor about their authorized absences in advance and arrange the make-ups.

Grade Determination:

**Homework:** Homework is due according to the strict deadlines specified in the class schedule on and is worth 30% of the class grade. *No late homework will be accepted.*

**In-class participation:** Attendance, participation in in-class discussions or/and quizzes and worksheets (if any) and in-class presentations worth 5% of the course grade.

**Reading Quizzes:** Reading quizzes are due online before every class period and are worth 5% of the course grade.

**Exams:** Each of the 3 Unit Exams is worth 20% of the total grade and the lowest score will be dropped. *The unit exams will be given on the regular class days: October 2, October 30 and December 1. The exams will also have take-home parts.* The Final Exam is comprehensive and it is also worth 20%. *All make-ups must be arranged in advance.*

The scale for the letter grades is the following: A=93-100, A-=90-92, B+=87-89, B=83-86, B-=80-82, C+=77-79, C=73-76, C-=70-72, D+=67-69, D=63-66, D-=60-62. Grades are final and cannot be negotiated unless an error has occurred. Although great care is taken in the recording of the grades, errors do occur, so please do make sure the recorded scores are correct!
Make-up Work:

All make-ups have to be authorized by instructor and arranged in advance.

 +/- Grade System:  See the grade scale above.

Academic Dishonesty:

Every student is fully responsible for the work which he/she submits as his/her own. Some of the class activities are designated as a group work. In these cases every group member should have the complete understanding and active participation in the group work. In some designated cases collaboration between the students is encouraged, but every student should keep in mind that this collaboration is not possible for other activities, especially during the exams. For individual assignments, presenting other people’s work as your own automatically leads to the assignment failure and may have even harder consequences up to expelling from the University.

ADA Compliance:

McMurry University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no otherwise qualified student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap”. If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may be requesting accommodation, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office. Arrangements will be made for students needing special accommodations.

Cell Phones, Calculators, Tablet PCs and other Electronic Devices:

You must disable all audible communication devices and anything else that goes ‘beep’ or ‘ding’. Laptops are to be used during the class periods strictly according to the instructor’s directions. They shall not be used for browsing internet, playing videogames, charting with friends and/or any other activity not directly related to the content of this course. In the cases when these rules are violated, a student may be asked to leave the classroom until the end of the current class period and the missed class activities will be counted as unexcused absence.

Other Course Policies:

This syllabus spells out specific policies concerning attendance, participation, assignments, deadlines and examinations; however, it is subject to change according to particular circumstances which may occur during the semester.

In addition to this syllabus, you have rights and responsibilities described in the Student Handbook and University Catalog. It is also the policy of McMurry University to not discriminate based on sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in its educational programs. Violation of this policy towards your fellow students may lead to expelling from this class.

Of particular importance are maintaining academic honesty and personal conduct. It is the responsibility of all members of McMurry University scholarly community to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This means you should not engage in behavior disruptive to the class or the learning experience of other students. You must fully participate in class which includes being seated and ready to participate in all class activities and waiting until class is over before packing up your things and leaving. During the class periods you may not read material and participate in any discussions not directly connected with the course content as well as you may not comment loud on any other subjects but physics.
Major Projects, Required Activities, and Assignments:

*Classical Mechanics* is a skills-building course, where every new topic is based on the knowledge of the previous subject. It is particularly important to attend all the lectures and to do all of the assigned homework. Mastery of a subject comes not just from the instructor or the text or the tests, but from the active engagement of every student in consideration of the concepts and methods of physics.

The specific methods designed to achieve this mastery of the subject:

- **Reading** the text and working through the example problems.
- **Lectures** consisting of explanations, discussions, solving example problems.
- **Homework** exercises on basic concepts and problem solving.
- **Discussions** with peers about main principles of classical mechanics and solving problems in peer groups.
- **Exams** on concepts and problem solving

Course Activities

**Class Preparation:** You are responsible for all of the material in the assigned reading, in handouts and exercises, presented in lecture, during discussions and posted on the class web site.

**Reading:** You are required to read the assigned sections of the text before the lecture then you can reread them once again after the lecture. The reading quizzes consisting of several short questions will be given online before every lecture. This is needed in order to spend the lecture time in the most efficient way not by repeating again and again the facts which are presented in the book in much more detailed form than any lecture time can possible allow but to concentrate on the most important points of the course and clarify them for students as much as possible.

**Lecture:** Attendance and participation at all lectures is required. Lectures are an activity and should not be wasted by passivity: listen -- think -- discuss -- ask questions -- answer questions. The only way for me as the instructor to know how the class understands the material is by receiving questions and answering those questions, so please do ask them.

**Homework:** The assignments will be posted on the class web page. The assigned problems will be taken from the book or will be given on handouts. It will be a set problems assigned to the each block of the material. The exact deadlines will be placed on the course web page. Collaboration is encouraged on the homework. However, each student should have a full understanding of any work that he/she submits as his/her own. The assignments are also open-book open-notes.

**Online Materials and Discussions:** The online component of this class will be administrated through “Moodle”. It allows posting of handouts, online assignments and organize online forums related to topics discussed in class.

**Discussions:** There may be in-class discussions and/or quizzes during the semester where you will discuss and solve problems relevant to the most important subjects of the course.

**Feedback:** At several points in the course, you will be asked to provide feedback in the form of surveys and course evaluations, to complement class discussion, assignments and exams. Please take the surveys seriously, as they will help me to provide more effective learning experience.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

The tentative course schedule is published online at [http://mail.mcm.edu/~bykov.tikhon/phys4300/Physics4300/sec.html](http://mail.mcm.edu/~bykov.tikhon/phys4300/Physics4300/sec.html)

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
Course Number and Title: Physics 4300, Classical Mechanics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course objectives and goals</th>
<th>Linked to which departmental program goal(s)</th>
<th>Linked to which institutional goal(s)?</th>
<th>Types of evidence that might be used to demonstrate student achievement of objectives &amp; goals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate conceptual understanding of the basic principles of classical mechanics.</td>
<td>to prepare physics graduates for a wide range of career opportunities including not only graduate study in physics, engineering, pre-med, or other sciences; but also, science teaching and careers in industry and science-related business</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 8</td>
<td>Successful completion of the in-class essay questions during exams.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the Lagrangian formalism towards solutions of various mechanical problems.</td>
<td>to prepare physics graduates for a wide range of career opportunities including not only graduate study in physics, engineering, pre-med, or other sciences; but also, science teaching and careers in industry and science-related business</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 8</td>
<td>Successful solving of appropriate problems during in-class discussions, homework and exams.</td>
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<td>Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the Hamiltonian formalism towards solutions of various mechanical problems</td>
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<td>Successful completion of the essay questions during exams and solving of appropriate problems during in-class discussions, homework and exams.</td>
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Institutional Goals:
1. Students acquire an education shaped by Christian values.
2. Students are equipped for successful careers and post-graduate education.
3. Students acquire an enthusiasm for lifelong learning through expanded intellectual and cultural experiences.
4. Students, in a community where leadership is cultivated, acquire a solid basis for future lives of leadership.
8. The institution will engage in an ongoing pursuit of excellence in curricula, programs, and policies.