OBJECTIVE: Students will learn basic concepts and elementary problem solving techniques for a broad spectrum of physics topics including mechanics, properties of matter, thermodynamics, sound, electricity and magnetism, light, and atomic structure.

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Neuhauser
415-338-1468
Thornton 540 (academic office)
barbjn@sfsu.edu

E-MAIL CONTACT: You may e-mail me about administrative matters. Please do NOT e-mail questions about homework; I have to draw diagrams and wave my hands when I answer physics questions. Please use this format for the subject in your e-mail messages: "PHYSICS 101: your name"

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 2:30 pm -- 3:30 pm in TH 540 (tentative)
Tuesday noon – 1:00 pm in TH 106 (tentative);
and by appointment.

HELP SESSIONS: Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (tentative time, location to be determined)
The laboratory TA’s will also have help sessions (time and location to be determined)
You are expected to attend a help session if you have questions about solving problems.

PREREQUISITE: Competence in high school algebra as demonstrated by a score of 50 or higher on the entry level mathematics exam (ELM), or a grade of C or higher in MATH 70, or an acceptable ELM exemption (see SFSU Bulletin).

REQUIRED TEXT: Conceptual Physics (11th or 12th edition) by Paul Hewitt (Addison-Wesley)

WEB ASSIGN: This is an on-line grading system for which you must purchase an access code either "bundled" with the text book or on-line for $22.95 with a credit card. WebAssign can be accessed at www.webassign.net. You may access WebAssign for free for 14 days after the first date that you will be able to log onto WebAssign, which for this course is Monday, 25 August 2014. However, you will be DROPPED from Physics 101 if you have not paid the WebAssign registration fee by noon on Monday, 8 September 2014. Please note that the deadline for dropping classes is also on Monday, 8 September 2014, at 11:59 pm.

If you have had a WebAssign account at SFSU in the past, continue to use your existing username and password. If you have forgotten your password, I will reset it for you.

If you have never had a WebAssign account at SFSU, we will construct a username and password for you. Your username is your last name in lower case letters spelled exactly as it appears on the class roster plus the last four digits of your SFSU I.D. number. If you have a space or a dash in your last name, it is omitted in the user name. Your initial password is the last four digits of your SFSU I.D. number, but leading zeroes may be dropped. You may have to try it both ways.

Example:
If your name and SFSU I.D. are: Minerva Smith-Gomez, 543210987, you log in this way:
Username: smithgomez0987
Institution: sfsu
Initial password: 0987 or 987
Use “Change Options” to change your password after your first log-in and to change the e-mail address to the one that you prefer so that WebAssign can e-mail your password to you if you forget it. Please be sure that your SFSU e-mail account forwards mail to your preferred e-mail address because mass e-mailing to all of the students in this very large class is done via the SFSU registration system.

WEB SITE: All course materials will be posted at www.webassign.net under the class heading “Physics 101 Fall 2014”. One of the earliest posts will be a tutorial on how to submit homework on WebAssign.

LECTURES: Students are expected to attend ALL lectures and to ARRIVE ON TIME for the lectures. Please TURN OFF your cell phone during the lecture!!! A tentative lecture schedule will be posted during the first week of classes. Lectures will discuss appropriate portions of the textbook, provide supplemental material, and present sample calculations. Relevant questions that can be answered briefly are welcomed during the lectures. Longer discussions of topics must be deferred to scheduled office hours and help sessions.

LABORATORY: Students may take the lecture without taking the lab. However, you may NOT take the lab without taking the lecture. At the first lab meeting lab manuals will be sold to you and your lab instructor will present details about lab policies and procedures.

HOMEWORK: Problem sets will be posted on WebAssign each Tuesday by 9 am (tentatively) and will be due on the following Tuesday at 11:59 pm (tentatively). Once the deadline passes, WebAssign will NOT accept answers! Usually you will be allowed only one attempt to submit an answer to a multiple choice question. However, if a question requires a numeric answer, you may make multiple submissions so that you can figure out what you are doing wrong and then work to correct your calculation. Students may discuss with each other general approaches to the problems, but each student should work out the detailed solutions by him/herself without using solutions obtained from any other source.

EXAMINATIONS: YOU MUST BRING SFSU I.D. (WITH A CLEAR PHOTO) TO ALL EXAMS !!!!!

MIDTERMS: Monday, 29 September 2014 (tentative); Lectures 1 – 9 Chapters 1 - 7
Wednesday, 5 November 2014 (tentative); Lectures 10 – 25 Chapters 8 - 10, 13 - 18
Wednesday, 10 December 2014 (tentative); Lectures 26 – 37 Chapters 19, 22 – 25, 28

- Each midterm exam will be taken in-class, closed book and closed notes.
- A formula sheet will be provided by the instructor.
- You may use a “scientific” calculator during the midterm exams, but you may NOT use a cell phone calculator.
- Your lowest (curved) midterm score will be dropped.
- NO make-up midterm exams will be given for any reason !!!
PHYSICS 101
CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

FINAL EXAM: Friday, 19 December 2014, 10:45 am – 1:15 pm in SCI 201

- The final exam is comprehensive – it covers all topics in the course.
- The final exam will be taken in-class, closed book and closed notes.
- A formula sheet will be provided by the instructor.
- You may use a "scientific" calculator during the final exam, but you may NOT use a cell phone calculator.
- The final exam MUST be taken at the scheduled time to avoid assignment of a grade of zero. Do not make travel plans that conflict with this schedule. NO make-up final exam will be given except in the case of serious illness or personal crisis.

GRADE: This course will be graded on a curve with the mean set to B-minus. The following weighting factors will be applied.

HOMEWORK: 20 % ALL homework sets will be included.

MIDTERM EXAMS: 25 % each Best two of three midterm exams; NO make-ups for any reason!

FINAL EXAM: 30 % NO make-ups except in the case of serious illness or personal crisis!

CHEATING ON HOMEWORK OR EXAMS WILL RESULT IN FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST THE STUDENT.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Services Building room 110 and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).