

Carleton University Physics Department

PHYS 3308 A – Electromagnetism (Fall 2025)

Course Delivery Information

Instructor:

Prof. Heather Logan (she/her) (please call me “Dr. Logan” or “Professor”)

Email: logan@physics.carleton.ca

Office: 

Teaching Assistant (TA):

Fazlul Yasin (he/him)

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Required Textbook:

Griffiths, David J., *Introduction to Electrodynamics*, 5th, 4th, or 3rd Edition. This is the same book that was used for PHYS 2305 last Winter. Available from the Carleton Bookstore (\$79.95 hardcover or \$63.95 for a 180-day subscription to the e-book) or directly from Cambridge University Press (\$79.95 hardcover [+ shipping] or USD\$69.99 e-book).

Course web page:

Hosted in Brightspace, at <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>. I will use this site to distribute readings and homework assignments and to host information about the exams. You will use it to upload your completed homework assignments and to view your grades and marked assignments. I will send out any time-sensitive announcements by email.

Lecture times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35am–12:55pm, in . The first lecture is on Thursday September 4 and the last one is on Thursday December 4. There are no lectures on October 21 or 23 because that week is Fall Break.

Office hours (dedicated times for you to ask questions about homework or course material):

By appointment, hosted by the course TA, Fazlul. To arrange an appointment, please email him at the address given above. Office hours will be on Zoom by default; if this doesn’t work for you, please discuss it with Fazlul or me.

Lecture, assignment, and exam format:

Lectures will be held in-person. Lecture attendance is encouraged but not required – if you’re sick or have an emergency, please stay home. To increase accessibility I will post scans of my lecture notes to Brightspace after each lecture, though you are not obligated to read them. I’ll be following the textbook pretty closely, so if you are short of time, read the specified textbook sections rather than reading both them and my lecture notes.

Homework assignments are to be done outside of class time. The question papers will be made available on the Brightspace page. Your solutions for each assignment should be submitted by scanning them to a single pdf file which you will upload to the Brightspace page. More details are below.

Two midterms and the final exam will be held in-person. The two midterm exams will be held in our usual classroom during two of the normal lecture periods. The final exam will be held during the December final exam period at a time and location to be assigned by the university. More details are below.

Course Description

PHYS 3308 [0.5 credit]

Electromagnetism

Electrostatic field and magnetostatics in the presence of matter. Solving Laplace's and Poisson's equations. Multipole expansions. Vector potential. Faraday's laws of induction; Maxwell's equations in matter. Waves in vacuum and dielectric media, guided waves.

Precludes additional credit for ELEC 3909.

Prerequisites: PHYS 2305, MATH 2004 or MATH 2008, and MATH 3705, or permission of the Department.

Lectures three hours a week.

Electromagnetism is in some sense a simple theory—Maxwell's equations fit easily on a t-shirt—but it gives rise to diverse and profoundly useful phenomena. The goal of this course is to consolidate and deepen your understanding of these phenomena, aided by the advanced mathematical techniques necessary for their clear description. In this course we will cover electrostatics and magnetostatics in the presence of matter, explore some more sophisticated mathematical techniques involving electrostatic potentials and the magnetic vector potential, and go deeper into Faraday's laws of induction and the physics of electromagnetic waves.

1. Electrostatic boundary value problems: Solutions of Laplace's and Poisson's equations; method of images; separation of variables; multipole expansion. [Griffiths Chapter 3]
2. Electrostatics in materials: polarization; dielectric materials. [Chap. 4]
3. Magnetic vector potential; multipole expansion. [Chap. 5]
4. Magnetic fields in materials: magnetization; magnetic materials. [Chap. 6]
5. Faraday's laws of induction; Maxwell's equations in matter. [Chap. 7]
6. Waves in vacuum and dielectric materials; guided waves. [Chap. 9]
7. The potential formulation and gauge transformations [Chap. 10.1]; relativistic electrodynamics [Chap. 12.3] (if time allows).

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Identify the most tractable method(s) to solve any particular electromagnetism problem by evaluating the symmetries and/or the known and unknown quantities involved;
- Set up a mathematical representation of the physical problem using the principles of electromagnetism and perform the mathematical operations needed to obtain the desired solution;
- Apply a variety of advanced techniques to solve electromagnetism problems involving boundaries or interfaces between materials;
- Solve electromagnetism problems involving polarizable, magnetizable, or conducting materials; and
- Solve problems involving electromagnetic waves in the presence of waveguides or dielectrics.

Assignments, exams, and grade distribution

Homework assignments (25%; lowest assignment mark will be dropped):

Homework will be assigned approximately every week, with due dates generally on Tuesdays. (The complete schedule will be provided in Brightspace.) The questions for each assignment will be posted in Brightspace, and your solutions must be scanned to a single pdf file and uploaded into Brightspace by the assignment's due date.

Working the assigned problems is the most important thing you can do to develop a deep understanding of electromagnetism, and is the best way to prepare for the exams. This material is quite mathematical, and builds on the math and physics that you learned in PHYS 2305 and the MATH prerequisite courses. You are encouraged to discuss the problems with other students, the TA, and me; however, **the work you hand in must be your own original work.** Use of online homework-help sites, generative AI / Large Language Models / chat-bots (including Google's "AI Overview"), or searching for or viewing solutions to equivalent problems online, is strictly forbidden and will not prepare you well for the exams. If you are having difficulties with the material, please email the TA to arrange for individualized help.

Late assignment policy: Assignments will be accepted through Brightspace upload up to 48 hours (two days) after the due date, no questions asked. Please don't use this automatic extension unless you really need it, e.g. for a short-term illness or injury, caregiving emergency, or unanticipated workload overload. For more serious situations in which you may need an extension of more than 48 hours, you must email me *before the original due date of the assignment* to request an extension. Depending on the length of the requested extension, I may waive the assignment in order to be considerate of the TA who does the marking; the disadvantage of this is that you will not get feedback on your work.

Two midterm exams (20% each):

There will be two in-person 80-minute midterm exams in the regular classroom during the regular lecture time (11:35am–12:55pm) on **Thursday October 9** and **Thursday November 13**. The midterms will be closed-book and closed-notes; a detailed formula sheet will be provided. I will post a draft of the formula sheet on Brightspace several days in advance so you can see what will be on it. I plan to have the first midterm exam marked and returned to you well before the last day to withdraw from a course, which is November 15.

Missed midterm exam policy: If you have to miss either of the midterm exams due to illness or some other emergency, please let me know by email as soon as possible so that I can arrange a time for you to write a deferred midterm. Midterm exams will not be waived.

Final exam (35%):

The final exam will be 3 hours long and will be held in-person **during the final exam period, December 8–20** (Exam Services has said that they will publish the final exam schedule on October 10, though they are usually a few days late). The final exam will be closed-book and closed-notes and a detailed formula sheet will be provided (I will post this in Brightspace in advance). Deferrals of final exams, due to illness or other emergency, are handled centrally by Exam Services; for more information and a link to the deferral application web-form, see <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>. A self-declaration is allowed instead of a doctor's note, but see the link for more information about required documentation and submission deadlines.

Statement on Generative AI / Large Language Model / Chatbot usage

Use of Generative AI, Large Language Models, or chat-bots such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Grok, etc. for any purpose related to this course is strictly prohibited.

Academic accommodations and human rights

Carleton University is committed to promoting academic accessibility for all individuals.

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems, and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University. For more information: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/> .

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the University's website:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/> .

Human rights and non-discrimination:

Carleton University and all members of the Carleton community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work, and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex, pregnancy, or sexual orientation, please contact the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (<https://carleton.ca/equity>) at equity@carleton.ca.

If you feel comfortable doing so, you can also contact me to address any concerns related to the course or classroom environment. I am a member of the Carleton Physics Department's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee.

Academic accommodations for students with disabilities/Disabled students:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please access the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC)'s centralized accommodation-handling web portal called Ventus at <https://ventus.carleton.ca/student/> . PMC can also be reached at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca. **You have to log in to Ventus each semester to select which courses you want your accommodations to apply to.** This has to be done no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre website (<https://carleton.ca/pmc>).

Regardless of documentation, if your learning experience could be improved by me adjusting the way I do things in this course, please don't hesitate to let me know (by email or in person) and I will do what I can to address it. I have "lived experience" and will take your requests seriously.

Religious obligations:

Please email me during the first two weeks of class with any requests for religious accommodations, or as soon as possible after you find out that you will need such an accommodation. For more details, please review the Student Guide to Academic Accommodation (<https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf> (2.1 MB pdf)).

For survivors of sexual violence:

Carleton is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations in accordance with Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support/>

For pregnancy:

Please email me during the first two weeks of class with any requests for academic accommodation, or as soon as possible after you find out that you will need such an accommodation. For more details, please review the Student Guide to Academic Accommodation (<https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf> (2.1 MB pdf)).

For extracurricular student activities:

Carleton recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level (this also includes things like student conferences and research). Please contact me during the first two weeks of class with any requests for academic accommodation, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities (<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf> (25 kB pdf)).

Some resources for peer support, academic help, and skill development:

Carleton Undergraduate Physics Society: <https://physsoc.physics.carleton.ca/>

Carleton Science Student Society: <https://www.sciencesociety.ca/>

Science Student Success Centre: <https://sssc.carleton.ca/>

Math Tutorial Centre: <https://carleton.ca/math/math-tutorial-centre/>

Academic Support Services: <https://students.carleton.ca/academics/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Carleton's letter grade scheme

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90–100 B+ = 77–79.99 C+ = 67–69.99 D+ = 57–59.99 F = below 50

A = 85–89.99 B = 73–76.99 C = 63–66.99 D = 53–56.99

A– = 80–84.99 B– = 70–72.99 C– = 60–62.99 D– = 50–52.99

WDN = Withdrawn from the course (**deadline to withdraw from Fall 2025 courses is Nov 15**)

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = student could not pass even with 100% on final exam

Academic integrity and how to avoid cheating (important!)

Examples of actions that violate Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy include:

- Plagiarism (e.g., passing off the words, equations, problem-solving strategies, or thoughts of another entity—human or AI¹—as your own, without citing the source);
- Accessing unauthorized sites for assignments or tests (e.g., posting the assigned questions on Chegg, searching the internet for solutions to similar problems, or using chat-bots in any way);
- Unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams (e.g., communicating with another student during an exam).

For details of what constitutes plagiarism, please see the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website (<https://science.carleton.ca/academic-integrity/>). Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. To further understand Academic Integrity, consider attending the Learning Support Academic Integrity Workshop (<https://carleton.ca/csas/learning-support/learning-support-workshops/>).

Standard penalties for violating Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy:

- **First offence:** a grade of zero on the work(s) associated with the misconduct, and a deduction of up to three (3) grade points from the final course grade (e.g. a grade of B could be reduced to a C).
- **Any subsequent offence:** sanctions range from a final grade of F in the course, to suspension from studies for up to 3 semesters, to expulsion from the University.

Note: These sanctions are provided here as guidelines only; more severe sanctions may be applied as appropriate (e.g., in the case of cheating on an examination).

Process of an Academic Misconduct Investigation:

Step 1: Instructor believes misconduct has occurred, and forwards all relevant details to the Office of the Dean of Science.

Step 2: Student is notified that a review of their work is pending.

Step 3: Dean of the Faculty of Science reviews the documentation.

Step 4: Student receives an Allegation Letter by email, documenting the claims and evidence.

Step 5: Student provides a written statement responding to the evidence provided. Either party may request a meeting between student and Dean (and ombuds) to discuss further.

Step 6: Dean considers all statements and evidence and renders a decision.

Appeal: Student has the right to appeal the decision.

Additional details about this process can be found on the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website (<https://science.carleton.ca/academic-integrity/>).

¹This phrasing is not meant to imply that a Large Language Model or other Artificial Intelligence has thoughts, or is doing anything beyond producing a mindless remix of existing human work.