

PHYS 1905

PHYSICS IN EVERY DAY LIFE

An on-line course based on the
Open Physics Education Module



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Office Hours: using Big Blue Button

Friday 10:00am-11:00am

Tuesday 7:00 pm-8:00pm

OVERVIEW

This course is intended for students with little or no background in Science. It introduces physics through a set of modules that are closely connected to our everyday life.

This course is only available on-line via CULearn.

COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain physics related phenomenon using basic physics principles and terminology
2. Perform basic calculation/estimations to solve simple physics related problems
3. Make correct judgement/decisions on physics related issues in their daily life based on basic physics principles

TEXTBOOK

The recommended text-book for the course is “Physics Beyond the Comfort Zone” by Peter Watson. This is an e-text book available from Amazon or IBooks for \$9.99:

https://www.amazon.ca/Physics-Outside-Comfort-Peter-Watson-ebook/dp/B01KYX3A5O/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1472130768&sr=1-3&keywords=comfort+zone

https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/physics-beyond-comfort-zone/id902018641?mt=13&uo=4%22%20target=%22itunes_store%22%3EPhysics%20Beyond%20the%20Comfort%20Zone%20-%20Watson,%20Peter%3C/a%3E

If you have difficulties accessing both two formats, please let me know.

CONTENT

The following thematic modules will be covered in this course. Each module will help you answer a series of questions listed below.

1. Transportation

If you drive a car and take a bus to get from point A to B. How to estimate your travel time and average speed? Have you wondered what forces are involved to keep the cars moving? What is the physics behind the safety rules on the road, especially in winter? Can physics help you pick a car that is safer during collision? What are the physical factors that determine the fuel economy of a car?

2. Sports

Physics is at the very heart of every sport. A good understanding of physics will help athletes maximize their potential. What forces are involved in cycling? Can a cyclist outrun a car? How strong a rope should you choose for rock climbing? How do figure skaters control their spins? What is the best projection angle for shot put?

3. Weather and climate

Global warming is almost too well-known to require discussion, but most people have a very limited understanding on the underlying science. If we cannot predict the weather over more than a week, how can we hope to predict climate change of a century? If there are equations that describe the weather, why can't we predict where hurricanes will go? Why is carbon dioxide so important?

4. Home Electricity

Our civilization is very dependent on electrical power. But what is electricity? How is electricity generated and transferred? How do light bulbs work? How efficient are some of the common appliances? How to estimate the electricity consumptions of a household? What are the preclusions for electrical safety?

5. Green Energy

From human body, to cars, to factories, to the whole human society, nothing will function without energy. As our demand increases, what are the GREEN energy sources? How is the energy generated from these sources? How efficient are they? What are the environment impacts of different energy sources?

MODULE COMPLETION DATES AND PHYSICS TOPICS COVERED

Thematic Modules	Expected completion dates of lecture videos	Physics topics Covered
1. Transportation	May 13	Linear motion, Speed, velocity, acceleration, Force, Newton's laws, circular motion, friction, collision, energy and momentum
2. Sports	May 20	Force, energy, projectile motion, rotation, moment of inertia, angular momentum
3. Weather and climate	May 27	Energy, heat and temperature, the first law thermodynamics, heat transfer, black body radiation
4. Home Electricity	June 3	Electrostatics, electric potential, current, and resistance, ohm's law, electric power, refrigeration, electric safety.
5. Green Energy	June 17	Electricity as energy, Electromagnetic Induction, thermal power generation, heat engine, nuclear power, solar power, wind power, biofuels

EVALUATION

1. (40%) Module quizzes

At the end of each thematic modules, there will be an online quiz of 15 multi-choice questions. **You have one week after the end of each thematic modules to finish the quiz.** Each quiz account for 8% of the final mark.

Thematic Module	Module quiz due date
1. Transportation	May 17, 23:55 pm
2. Sports	May 24, 23:55 pm
3. Weather and climate	May 31, 23:55 pm
4. Home Electricity	June 7, 23:55 pm
5. Green Energy	June 14, 23:55 pm

2. (40%) Two writing projects

Each thematic module has suggested essay topics and/or a lab you can perform using materials or devices that are available in your home.

You are required to write **two** essays or lab reports on two of the five topics of your choice. The first (essay or lab) must be chosen from the first two thematic Modules (Transportation and Sport). The second (essay or lab) must be chosen from the last three modules (Weather and climate, Home Electricity, and Green Energy). **At one of the two writing project has to be essay, i.e. you can chose (one essay + one lab), or two essays.**

The due dates at listed in this table:

	Thematic Modules	Module essay or lab report due dates
1 st Essay or Lab Must pick one of the two topics	1. Transportation	The first Essay or Lab report due on June 3, 23:55pm
	2. Sports	
2 nd Essay or Lab Must pick one of the three topics	3. Weather and climate	The 2 nd Essay or Lab report due on June 17, 23:55pm
	4. Home Electricity	
	5. Green Energy	

For the lab report, a write up template will be provided. The essay has to be **800-1000 words**. The both essays or lab reports should be written using word processing software. **Hand written essays will NOT be accepted and will be given zero mark.** Essays or lab reports should be uploaded via CULearn.

3. (20%) Final online quiz

During the final exam period, there will be an online quiz of multi-choice questions that covers all the content of the course.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/ and see the [student guide](#) .

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/ and see the [student guide](#) .

Students with disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than one week before the first in-class scheduled evaluation requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Requests for accommodation for the June exam must be made by May 29 as per <https://carleton.ca/summer/dates-and-deadlines/>

Survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University 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 as per 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 carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Accommodations for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for 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. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see [the policy](#).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at carleton.ca/equity/ .

Assistance for Students:

Academic and Career Development Services: <http://carleton.ca/sacds/>

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

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

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

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



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- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
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