

Jan 2007

Dear Young Collaborator,

Welcome to #106, that is the number of semesters I have been working with young folks. First they were peers, then children, and now grandchildren and beyond. Over these 52 years it has been my pleasure to get to know each one of my “buddy physicists” and work to develop his/her new talents to the max. I do not need to tell you that once you sign on to work with me you are special so I urge you to participate and make this another exciting semester. Take care. God Bless You!

- 1) The following notes should help in this endeavor. It is important to note that Physics is SIMPLE but it is NOT EASY and so it requires deep commitment from each one of us. Your job is to ask questions in class (if you are comfortable) but definitely outside of class at the first possible opportunity. This is a privilege that no student should ever concede. Answers can be dumb, questions NEVER: to facilitate such discussion I have L-O-N-G office hours.

<u>Times</u>	9:30 AM- 6:00 PM
<u>Days</u>	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri
<u>Note</u>	Your visits earn a Bonus, see 6 below

- 2) My job is to help you construct a succinct consistent answer which makes sense (to you). Sometimes the answer is so simple that you get the feeling – the old man is making fun of me. Not true. Fact, I have spent years addressing similar questions. You just got started. Every problem is hard until we figure out the solution. The bottom line is: There is NO SUCH THING AS A DUMB QUESTION.
- 3) The concepts are subtle, the derivations tricky. Just listening to lecture and/or reading material once is not enough. We need all five:
 - Lecture – introduces you to concept
 - Discussion – Me (times on schedule)
 - Discussion – T.A. (office visits, bonus too!)
 - Notes – Online (see 10 below)
 - Problem Solving – (You + TA + Me)
- 4) The Book: Alas it does not provide all that we need, but it is important. Quiz problems (worth 100 points) come directly from the book. 1/6th of your grade depends on quizzes. Helps boost your grade!
- 5) Laboratory: Very important. Do every experiment, get every report graded. Helps boost grade!
- 6) Bonus: Every office visit gives a bonus of 2% of your earned grade. 5 (five) visits count. Maximum bonus 10%.

Example: Grade 80/100, 5 visits, Bonus 8.

VISITS ARE ENTIRELY YOUR DOING. THERE IS NO UPPER LIMIT. SO DROP BY AND LET US SHARE.

- 7) Formulae For Sale: Although “formulae” sheets are provided you can also buy formula (for one point) during any exam.
- 8) Problem #'s on the schedule: 1-8 means problem 8 of chapter 1.
- 9) Roughly speaking, the letter grades at the end will be determined as follows:

A →	510/600 [A+>580]
B →	420-509 [B+>480]
C →	320-419 [C+>390]
D →	250-319 [D+>300]

- 10) To supplement the book, notes will be put online (as well as in the library, if permitted). I, as well as your T.A.'s always have a copy so, in a pinch you can access them from us. Altogether, for the semester, the notes will amount to about 150 pages. Since the exams are based on our class discussion please read the notes carefully.

- 11) In all honesty I am fully aware of my limitations as well as the complexity and subtlety of the concepts to be presented. Plus, they pile up ever so quickly. That is why I push frequent one-on-one discussions. Also many of you ask for letters of support-for gaining admission to professional schools. I am happy to write such letters of recommendation based on our interactions. Visits are triply important.

God Bless You!
SMB