**Course Information:**

The schedule should be checked often since it will be updated as the semester progresses. I will maintain a comprehensive schedule which will allow you to budget your time. It will include reading assignments to prepare for class, provide a list of due dates for homework sets, and show all scheduled quizzes and exams.

Homework assignments will be posted under the homework section of the web site and updated throughout the semester. Solutions for exams, quizzes, and homework will be posted as PDF files on the Canvas. Class announcements will be sent out via a Canvas.

**Lecture:**

The material discussed in the lecture will treat essentially the same material as in the text but offers from a rather different perspective. It is essential to follow the lectures to do well in the course. Material for exams will follow the lectures as much or more than the book.

**Communication:**

I strongly encourage students to make use of email for quick correspondence with me regarding lecture material, homework problems and the like. I will also use email to communicate with the class at large.

**Discussion Sections:** The discussion sections have several functions. One is to provide students a chance to ask questions to clarify issues raised in lectures and the book. A second is an emphasis on problem solving. To help make the problem solving component compelling, the sections will generally work on at least some of the current week’s homework assignment – before they are due. Given this it is strongly in your interest to make an attempt at the homework before the discussion section. This will enable you to ask the TA to focus on section on those problems which are giving you trouble. The sections will commonly have a short quiz.

**Homework:**

Homework will be done through Mastering Physics. I will assign HW periodically, you will usually have around 1 week to complete the assignment. I will usually assign HW on Tuesdays to be due the following Tuesday. The due dates for your HW will be clearly marked on MP.

You must submit your answers for the homework problems over the internet using the Mastering Physics web site (see below).

There are several advantages to electronic homework submission:
(1) You will know right away if your answer is right or wrong
(2) If you give a wrong answer, you can go back and try again to see if you can get the correct solution. (3) You are graded only on your final answers and get your score when you are done.
(4) The site also has a tutorial capability that you may find helpful.

Note that the software may randomize the numbers each time you make a new attempt on a problem, so be careful and remember that other students working on exactly the same problems are likely to have different numbers.

**Why you need to do the Homework:** The principal way that you can understand Physics is by learning how to solve problems. The homework can be expected to be challenging, it counts a great deal towards your final grade and it enables you to succeed on your exams.

Getting started in electronic homework submission: To turn in your homework, you need to go to: http://www.masteringphysics.com/
The site is best accessed with a current version of Windows Explorer or Firefox. If you run into problems, check the system requirements. In the past, there have been major issues working with Mastering Physics through Google Chrome, so please avoid using Google Chrome.

Registering and Gaining Access to Mastering Physics: In order to turn in your homework, you will need to register at the Mastering Physics website http://www.masteringphysics.com/. To register, you need two things - an access number and the class ID. When you buy (new or used copy of) your textbook you will need to purchase a Mastering Physics access key number. The easy way to do this is to simply buy it online from the above MP website. Your class ID is: MPPAPADPOULOS90049

Quizzes:
A number of 10-minute quizzes will be conducted throughout the course of the semester administered by the TA. It will be given at the end of the Discussion section. If you understood the homework problems, you should have no problem with the quiz. The best 8 quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Exams:
All exams are closed book. A single 4x6 index card will be allowed for each midterm exam, and two 4x6 cards will be allowed for the final exam. No calculators with memory or wireless communication are allowed. If you bring such a calculator to an exam, you will not be allowed to use it. The exams will be the full duration of the allotted time of the lecture, 1 hour and 15 minutes. The exams will include numerical constants you may need. Make-up exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances, in which case an oral examination will be conducted. If you have a good reason that you cannot attend an exam, please talk to me before the exam so we can arrange for an oral exam to be given on an alternate date.

Rescheduling of lectures, & discussions:
In the case of unforeseen circumstances, lab, discussion, and lecture hours may be rescheduled. Any rescheduling will be decided during the semester as possible extenuating circumstances arise.

Attendance:
This Physics course is extremely fast paced and demanding. You will be learning new concepts every lecture and missing even one lecture can make you fall behind simply because the concepts build on the ones covered in earlier sessions. Hence, attendance to lectures and discussions are mandatory.

Grading:
Tentatively the grading for Phys 270 component of the class will be based on the following weights:

Midterms - 40% (Lowest grade given weight of 50%)
Homework - 20%
Quizzes – 5%
Final Exam (Cumulative) – 35%

Note that these are tentative and subject to change. An attempt will be made to assign grades in as fair manner as possible and it may be necessary to alter these grades to deal with unexpected circumstances. Note that homework and quiz is of rather little weight so that if you do poorly on one it is quite unlikely to affect your grade. Note that grading will not follow the 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C scale familiar from high school. Rather, the association of grades with percentage will depend in large measure on difficulty of the exams and will set a posteriori in order to assign grades fairly.
General Comments:

Physics is a naturally cumulative subject; the knowledge learned at each stage builds upon a previous knowledge. Do not fall behind! If you find yourself in trouble, seek help. Attend the discussion section and ask questions, or go to office hours. Don’t wait until just before the exam.

Where to go when you need help:

1) Professor Papadopoulos - I am the best resource for this class. Don’t hesitate to come or email for an appointment if you have questions or are having difficulty with any of the material in this class.
2) Slawsky Clinic (1208 Physics) – offers free tutoring in Physics 270 and other subjects.
3) TA office Hours: if you can’t make these hours phone or email the TA and ask for to make an appointment.

Academic Honesty:

Along with certain rights, students also have the responsibility to behave honorably in an academic environment. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any abridgement of academic integrity standards will be referred directly to the Assistant Dean and forwarded to the University’s Office of Judicial Affairs. Confirmation of such incidents can result in expulsion from the University. Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty should consult the University publication entitled Academic Dishonesty.

Of course, you must work by yourself on exams and quizzes. You are allowed to work with other students, the physics clinic, your TA and your instructor on your homework and on the labs. However, you should not just directly copy from them. Doing so is not only dishonest, it will hurt your ability to do the problems on the quizzes and the exams.

You should also be aware of the University of Maryland Honor Pledge, found at http://www.inform.umd.edu/honorpledge. The Honor Pledge is a statement undergraduate and graduate students should be asked to write by hand and sign on examinations, papers, or other academic assignments not specifically exempted by the instructor. The Pledge reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination."

The pledge was adopted by the University Senate on April 9, 2001, and approved by the President on May 10, 2001.