

TO: Physics 230/231 students
FROM: Physics 230 & 231 Instructors

Welcome to Palomar College Physics & Engineering Program. We would like you to know that you are about to start your professional field. As you go to junior and senior levels, each class you will have to take is more demanding. If you are not able to follow and pass those demanding courses, you will have to think about taking an alternate path (i.e. dropping the school or changing your major). We don't want our physics 230/231 students to change their majors **after** they transfer. Our goal is to make sure that Palomar physics students are well prepared for future demanding classes in the universities where they are going to transfer. **To do so, both of us need to make a commitment about the program.** To be successful in this class and in the future, it takes huge amount of effort from both you and us.

- ✓ Be an active learner.
- ✓ Study physics for at least 2 hours **everyday** (not 14 hours during the weekend).
- ✓ Do each of the homework questions (not to look at the solution, but work in writing) at least 4 times.
- ✓ Study math for at least 1 hour everyday if you are also taking a math course.
- ✓ If a new derivation or a proof is done during a lecture, make sure you can repeat without looking at notes.
- ✓ When an extra topic/assignment is given during a lecture, do it.

Yes, this class is demanding (you need to recognize this is a **sophomore** level, not freshman level anymore), and it requires a good study habits and skills, and you will learn **before** you transfer. The only way you can learn and master the subjects is repetition. This class is not to give you a false confidence. If you make it, you will do well in your upper division. In the past, we have seen so many students with bad attitudes such as:

- ❖ Study only for an exam (they may pass, but they forget everything by the following semester.)
- ❖ Try to get a maximum score with a minimum effort
- ❖ If it does not work with a minimum effort, drop a course just before the dead line.

We don't want to see those students in our classes anymore. The knowledge you are gaining in Math and Physics are the basic blocks for your future classes. You must not forget any of them. The goal in this class is not to pass the exams but to understand and learn physics. Deep understanding and real leaning take time as we requested the above. We understand that it takes time to learn, but what you are required to do give you a solid base of knowledge. We believe in true education. We know there are students who are worried about their GPA's now to transfer, but for your career, which do your think is more important, lower division GPA or upper division GPA (Yes, they separate lower and upper GPA's. You will have to worry about your GPA even more after you transfer because that GPA reflects your true GPA in your profession.) If you are so worried about lowering your GPA now and if you know you can work very hard and do well without good foundation after you transfer, you should seek for easier education somewhere else. Probably all colleges including UCSD and SDSU at this level are easier than ours. However, you should know that we send students to MIT, Cal-Tech, as well as all UC's and State schools. We hear our students do quite well and some of them receive awards because of their achievements. Of course, that is due to their hard working, not ours. But hard working ethics starts here. **This class is for students who are very serious about their educational goals and future careers in Physics or Engineering.** Hence, **if you are lazy, or if you don't want to change your bad study habit, you don't need to take this class. Give your seat to someone else who is more serious than you.** If you really want to learn, and if you promise us to follow the study guidelines, we will guarantee you will do well when you transfer which is more important than doing well at freshman and sophomore level.

Special warning to AP Physics students: If you were an AP Physics student in a high school, first few chapters will be very easy for you since you've seen it before. This does not mean you know all and you don't

have to study. There were so many AP students who did well at the beginning, but started to do poorly after the 3rd or 4th week because they don't follow the guidance. Even though they were told how to succeed in this class (and for the future), they thought they were special and because first few chapters were not difficult for them, they took the warning in this class just like other warnings in other classes. By the time when they realized that they needed to study, it was too late and consequently, they ended up with F's. This class is not to memorize equations and plug in numbers. You need to learn how to derive everything from the basic equations. If we do/approach differently than what you had learned, learn to accept our ways. There is a reason for that, and you will appreciate it later. If you try to stick with your high school way, you will not be doing well in later chapters.

How you are treated in this class: You will be treated exactly the way you treat this class. If you want to be treated nicely, treat this class and the professor nicely. The followings are the examples of treating the class badly.

- Show up the class late.
- Sleep in the class.
- Talk/whisper during the professor is giving a lecture.
- Use a cell phone/send a text message during the lecture.
- Play an electronic game.
- Not following the guideline.

Almost every single word used by the professor is very important during the lecture. If you don't pay attention, you will miss very important concept or idea and will fall behind. In this class, this means it will be impossible to catch up by yourself (Do not think that you are special because you are not!). We will promise that we will work very hard for your education if you are serious about your education.

I, _____ read the statements above. I am serious about my education and will
(print your name)
follow the guidelines given above. I will be working my hardest to learn the subjects from today, and I will decide whether or not this class is for me within the first four weeks. If I do not drop by the end of the fourth week, I will receive a course grade of whatever I deserve.

_____, _____
(signature) (date)

This sheet is to be turned in by Friday of the first week of a semester. Any student who failed to turn in will be dropped from the course.