

Looking at this document constitutes reading the entire document. Readers of the document are bound to the fact that life isn't fair and this course will challenge you mentally, emotionally, and perhaps even physically. That being stated, the instructor is actually not responsible for any ill effect resulting from the class you chose to sign up for because you wanted to be challenged.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS - MECHANICS POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND COURSE INFORMATION

Period 6 with Dr. Hood in room 38

We will refer to several books during throughout our course. Your textbook Physics for Scientists and Engineers, 6th Ed. by *Serway and Faughn*, published by Thomson/Brooks/Cole, is proviws on your MDCPS Student Portal. I also have several hard copies for classroom use. If you need to take one home, I can loan you a copy. We will also refer to the following textbooks, which I have numerous copies of in class and can check out a copy to you for home use: Fundamentals of Physics 6th and/or 7th Edition by *Halliday, Resnick and Walker*, University Physics by *Sears, Zampansky, and Press*, previous Honors Physics texts: Physics by *Walker* or Physics by *Giancoli*, and previous Regular Physics texts: Physics-Principles and Problems by *Merrill* or Conceptual Physics by *Hewitt*.

You will always have access to *The Equation Sheet* for all classwork and exams. This is the *SAME Equation Sheet* that the College Board will provide to you during your AP exam. You need to **bring your calculator with you to class EVERY day**. If there is a *Surprise Quiz*, you may need this tool - you can not share a calculator during an exam.

If you don't have it, then you've made the decision that you don't need it. You are expected to keep all the handouts I give you throughout the course in a three-ring binder, organized – your notebook will be graded every term!

If you plan to be absent (field trip, doctor's appointment, etc...) YOU are still responsible for the course material you may have missed. The course schedule can be found on our class blog at: <http://apmechphysicsmast.blogspot.com> It is your responsibility to check this blog frequently for changes and updates to your scheduled assignments and exams. As soon as you return to the classroom and show me your *excused* absence form, I will accept any assignments/projects that were due during your absence(s) and schedule make-up exams for you. If you miss an exam or homework/project deadline and your absence is deemed *unexcused* by our administration, your grade will be recorded as an "F". Only exceptions approved by the MAST Academy administration will be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a basic understanding of the nature and concepts of physics. Special emphasis will be placed on the logical and deductive nature of the discipline. The student will receive an opportunity to do laboratory work in order to better understand the underlying physical principles and foundations of the scientific problem. The student will practice applying scientific investigation skills through the design and execution of experiments and by analyzing collected data to form conclusions. For more information regarding the course content, see the AP Physics Syllabus on **Schoology**, which **you are expected to check daily for class updates. Ignorance is not an excuse for not knowing what is expected of you.**

The language of physics is mathematics!

Stay tuned – see Schoology and AP Classroom - for further updates and changes...homework and exam scheduling and topics sequencing are subject to change!

PREREQUISITES:

A solid grasp of fundamental algebra and trigonometry and the ability to translate word problems into quantitative representations* is necessary in order to achieve even modicum success in this course. Additionally, much of the AP Physics will require the use of basic differential calculus, which you must be willing to learn perhaps before covering these topics in your AP Calculus class. Furthermore, willingness to practice numerous problems and exercises in and outside the classroom (i.e., homework), along with a cooperative attitude, is essential! Each student must have, bring to class (every day), and know how to use a scientific calculator. The TI-83 plus is highly recommended. AP Physics is an extremely challenging course, duh, requiring a WAY above-average workload. *Students in AP Physics should have already had a Honors Physics course (and got my recommendation for this course) and be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed AP Calculus AB. For a list of AP Physics C formulas displayed in the differential and/or integral calculus format see the College Board (Google it). You are expected to keep all notes taken in class, handouts and worksheets given to you, and problems solved in an organized three-ring binder. I periodically collect them and grade them for completeness/organization.

GRADING POLICY:

- (a) There will be a minimum of two grades awarded each week. At least one will be from a quiz or test. A quiz may be scheduled or a surprise. A test will be scheduled with at least a day of advance notice.
- (b) Quizzes will be worth 1 grade; tests will be worth two-three grades; the number of grades for special projects (eg., labs) will vary. Two grades per term will be for homework and these marks will be based on an average of all assignments during that grading period.
- (c) Your Notebook will be graded (worth three grades) for completeness at least once per term.
- (d) Grades for assessments will be determined by averaging all accumulated grades earned during the grading period. The Miami-Dade County Public School Board mandated scale will be used to determine grades: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 50-59% = F

DECORUM:

* Students are expected to be in class, on time, everyday. The tardiness policy is:

- 1st tardy: warning and notation in grade book
- 2nd tardy: notation in grade book, conduct grade lowered one level, detention, and parent/guardian contact.
- 3rd and subsequent tardies: referral to Assistant Principal and/or Saturday work detail and conduct grade lowered another level each incident.

After the late bell rings, students will only be admitted to class with an official admit, excused or unexcused - a pass from a teacher, or a logged admit from the attendance office (excused or unexcused).

* Each student will begin each term with a conduct grade of "A".

* Students are expected to follow the CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, published by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Infractions of the code will be handled as indicated in this publication. The same holds for the MAST Academy policies.

* Academic Integrity is expected – **The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is an automatic DOUBLE ZERO for the assignment (which means the assignment has twice the grade weight it would normally carry in the teacher's gradebook), notification to parents, and full implementation of the disciplinary routine specified in the most recent M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct.** The first infraction carries a minimum penalty of Parent Notification and Referral to Administration.