Dr. Lorraine Solomon

IB HL/AP Physics - Commack High School

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Congratulations on deciding to pursue your study of Physics!  I hope that you will find our exploration of the natural world enlightening and enriching, and that your increased understanding enhances your enjoyment of our world!

In this class we will explore some areas of physics new to you, and also revisit, on a deeper level, some of the physics that you have already studied. It is my hope and goal that you will come to a more thoughtful understanding of many of the physics ‘big ideas’, and that you will learn to apply your knowledge to new situations that integrate several different areas of physics. This requires you to **really** understand the physics.  This understanding will come via **working through problems**, both in class and at home.  (Physics is not a spectator sport!!) As the great theoretical physicist Richard Feynman (1918-1988) said that, through the study of physics…

 “our imagination is stretched to the utmost, not, as in fiction, to imagine things which are not really there, but just to comprehend those things which 'are' there.”

In order to be successful, participate! At night, review your class notes and problems, and do your hw assignment diligently. Ask questions! Come to extra help! (Let's get a group of students at extra help who work together on physics hw problems)  Use your textbook and study guide, paying particular attention to the example problems!  Come in to class with specific questions!  Stay up to date!

Grading -

* **Tests, quizzes** (announced, **unannounced**, in class, or web based), count for **at least 70%** of the marking period grade.
* Homework counts as 10% of the marking period grade.  A missing or poorly done homework assignment will reduce your marking period grade (a missing calculator, packet, or study guide = a missing homework).  One fifth of the homework grade (2% of your MP grade) for MP1, MP2, and MP3 is an independent hw activity
  + Ind HW project must be pre-approved, and must be **completed** **by the following dates** (**MP1** – 11/2/18; **MP2** – 1/11/18; **MP3** – 3/29/19).
  + Attendance at 2 extra helps sessions, a minimum of 40 minutes each, fulfills your Independent Homework for a MP. A study group consists of groups of 2-5 students doing homework and/or additional practice. Students must sign “The Book” for credit on the day of their activity.
  + **Video –** Discuss it with your teacher.
  + **Other Ideas:** Discuss it with your teacher.
* Your **laboratory grade** counts **up to 20%** of your marking period grade.  The lab grade includes the quality of your participation in lab activities and lab reports. A lab which is late one day incurs a 20% penalty. Additional lateness will be further penalized. Missing or unacceptable labs will count as a zero in your grade.
  + A missed lab or activity **must** be made up during the **first** extra help session that takes place after the in-class lab, or your grade will incur a 20% grade penalty. Additional lateness will incur additional penalties. If for some reason it is not possible for you to do this, you MUST speak with me **prior** to the first extra help session.

These percentages **may vary** with the marking period to reflect the fact that some marking periods have many labs, while others do not, and will be announced in class.

For all assignments, activities, or assessments in this class, unethical actions such as cheating, copying, and/or plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment, for all students involved!! Although you may work and take data in a lab group, your report must be solely the product of your own efforts! The IB IA assessment must be submitted to turnitin.com.

Required supplies

* a calculator, loose-leaf notebook, physics packet, and writing instrument - every day!
* protractor and ruler (you will be told when to bring these in)
* stapler

Online homework login directions for, ex., Patti Smith

go to <http://www.webassign.net/>

username :  psmith

institution:  commack.ny

password: will be given out in class

Your textbook and study guide are soft covered and fragile!! You may NOT write in these.  The books must be returned at the end of the year in the same condition in which you received them.  You will be able to access the text ebook along with solutions

Additional, VERY USEFUL Resources:

* Chris Doner IB Physics Videos

https://www.youtube.com/user/exportationality

* Wikispaces Powerpoints(may no longer work): <https://ibphysics2016.wikispaces.com/>
* Khan Videos