

SUNY Geneseo  
Dr. Pogo  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Class: TR 11:00 am; ISC 136  
Online Office Hours: Office: ISC 228D  
MTWR 8:30-9:20; MW 9:30-10:20; T 2:00-2:50  
(<https://discord.gg/GjkWREU>) [pogo@geneseo.edu](mailto:pogo@geneseo.edu)  
Web: <https://tildesites.geneseo.edu/~pogo>

General Physics I  
(Phys 113-01)  
Spring 2026

What am I doing here? “Physics” is a description (not an explanation) of the behavior of the physical world around us. In this course you will learn some of the definitions, concepts, and techniques of physics. You will practice what you have learned by solving physics problems on homework assignments, quizzes, and exams. Seriously, the only way to learn physics is to do physics. At the end of this course, you should be able to apply the basic principles of classical mechanics (e.g., force, energy, and momentum) to solve a variety of problems (not just limited to the types we do in class).

What if I’m confused? Your textbook, Physics (any edition) by Cutnell & Johnson, provides many examples and hints for solving problems. The Physics Learning Center (ISC 233) may also be available for help when you are stuck. In addition, I will be happy to answer your questions (but not to do your homework for you) during the office hours listed above, or at any other mutually convenient time.

I want an ‘A’! I want you to get an ‘A’, too! Your grade in this course will be based on your homework grades, quizzes, and exams (including a comprehensive final).

**Homework:** You will submit your weekly homework using the CAPA system on the internet. CAPA homework is generally due before 8 am on the day indicated (see back). You may discuss the assignments with other students, but you are responsible for doing your own work.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given at 11:00:00 am on every class day when an assignment is due. These quizzes are open notebook, and will require you to symbolically copy a homework solution for a problem from your paper homework journal. I may drop your lowest quiz score when computing your final grade, depending on your circumstances and your choices. Due to oddities in the College’s schedule, quizzes 5 and 6 will still be in class on Thursdays, even though you have an extension until Friday for the corresponding assignments. Note also that Assignments 12 and 13 (with their quizzes) are due on Tuesdays, not Thursdays.

**Exams:** You will take in-class exams using the CAPA system. You are required to bring a laptop to exams with a battery sufficiently charged to last the full 75 minutes. Exams will require you to answer conceptual questions and to solve problems which I will design. There are 4 exams, including the final. The exams are scheduled as follows.

- Exam #1: Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4a
- Exam #2: Tuesday, March 24, 2026: Chapters 4, 5, and 6, 7
- Exam #3: Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Chapters 7, 8, and 9
- Exam #4: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 (noon – 2:30 pm): Chapters 1 - 13

If, for some non-trivial, documented reason, you are unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, I may allow you to take a make-up exam; however, you must contact me at least 1 week prior to the exam date. Rescheduling is your responsibility, not mine!

Grades: Final grades will be computed as follows:

CAPA Assignments: 20% (total for all 14 assignments)

Quizzes: 13% (total for all 13 quizzes)

Use of Office Hours: 4% (at least 1 relevant visit in 2 different calendar months)

Exams #1, 2, 3, and 4: 63% total; the final (#4) is worth twice as much as the others.

What is my responsibility? You are expected to own a physical (paper) textbook. You must attend and participate in class (and arrive on time), study the relevant sections of your textbook, and complete all of your own homework assignments on time. You may not turn in homework problems that someone else has solved or use solutions you find online. At best you will not receive credit for the homework; at worst you will be charged with academic dishonesty.

This course moves along quickly and covers a lot of material; it is important that you keep up to date! In office hours, you should be prepared to use your computer's snipping tool, and copy-and-paste in Discord (CTRL-C and CTRL-V) to quickly post images that are appropriately sized (i.e., not gazillion pixel images taken with your phone).

When will it all happen? Here is the schedule of events for this semester. Please note the due dates for homework and the dates for exams. The schedule is subject to revision as the course progresses, and any major changes will be announced in class. Textbook chapters refer to the 10th edition.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Suggested Reading: sections 1.1 - 1.5,

Suggested Reading: Appendices A and B

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Suggested Reading: sections 1.6 - 1.8; 2.1 - 2.3

Suggested Reading: Appendix E

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Suggested Reading: sections 2.4 - 2.7

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Suggested Reading: Appendix C Suggested Reading: sections 3.1 - 3.3

Assignment #1 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Suggested Reading: sections 4.1 - 4.5

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Suggested Reading: sections 4.6 - 4.10

Assignment #2 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Suggested Reading: section 4.11

Thursday, February 12, 2026  
Suggested Reading: section 4.12  
Assignment #3 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
Exam #1 (Chapters 1 – 4a)  
Exam covers Assignments 1 through 3

Thursday, February 19, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 5.1 - 5.2  
Assignment #4 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
All classes cancelled by administration

Thursday/Friday, February 26/27, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 5.3 - 5.4  
Assignment #5 Due Friday (8:00 am)

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 6.1 - 6.3

Thursday/Friday, March 5/6, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 6.4 - 6.7  
Assignment #6 Due Friday (8:00 am)

Thursday, March 10, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 7.1 – 7.2

Thursday, March 12, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 7.3 - 7.5  
Assignment #7 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, March 17, 2026  
No scheduled class

Thursday, March 19, 2026  
No scheduled class

Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
Exam #2 (Chapters 4b – 7)  
Exam covers Assignments 4 through 7

Thursday, March 26, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 8.1 - 8.3  
Assignment #8 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 8.4 - 8.6

Thursday, April 2, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 9.1 - 9.2  
Assignment #9 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 9.3 - 9.4

Thursday, April 9, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 9.5 - 9.6  
Assignment #10 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, April 14, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 10.1 - 10.3

Thursday, April 16, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 10.4 - 10.6  
Assignment #11 Due (8:00 am)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
Exam #3 (Chapters 7b – 9)  
Exam covers Assignments 8 through 11

Thursday, April 23, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 11.1 - 11.6

Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 11.7 - 11.10  
Assignment #12 Due (8:00 am) + quiz

Thursday, April 30, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 12.1 - 12.4, 12.6 - 12.8

Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
Suggested Reading: sections 13.1 - 13.4  
Assignment #13 Due (8:00 am) + quiz

Monday, May 11, 2026  
Assignment #14 Due (8:00 am)  
(obviously no quiz #14!)

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 (noon)  
Exam #4 (Chapters 1 – 13)  
Exam covers Assignments 1 through 14  
Noon – 2:30 pm

### Learning Outcomes

This course satisfies SUNY General Education Requirements (GER) in Natural Science. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods scientists use to explore natural phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of

evidence, and employment of mathematical analysis; and students will demonstrate application of scientific data, concepts, and models in one of the natural (or physical) sciences.

Each individual class day has multiple learning outcomes; the following are only broad summaries of the most important of them.

At the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to extract meaningful quantitative data from text (prose) and from images.  
Be able to use basic 1D and 2D kinematics (including the effects of gravity) to describe and predict the behavior of ideal objects.
- Be able to draw free-body diagrams (force analysis) to describe and predict the behavior of ideal objects.
- Be able to use the principles of energy conservation to describe and predict the behavior of ideal objects.
- Be able to use the principles of momentum conservation to describe and predict the behavior of ideal objects.

Also, the college provides information at the following URL relating to a variety of course topics:

<https://sunygeneseo.sharepoint.com/sites/provost/sitepages/syllabus%20resources%20related%20to%20student%20success/syllabus-resources-related-to-student-success.aspx?web=1>