

Welcome to physics 211!

Once again I want to welcome you to our fully online physics 211 course! One of the biggest challenges with a fully online course is communication, so we will rely heavily on our course website

<https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys211/fa2020/index.html>

Indeed, there is even a link to this email on the site ☺ So I encourage you to use this as your first resource. With classes starting next week, I thought it might be useful to point out a few links that will be helpful throughout the semester. Perhaps the most important link is the

Schedule

<https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys211/fa2020/syllabus.html> this contains information about deadlines and activities for all of the course components. Below are the activities coming up in the order they are due.

Prelecture and Checkpoint

You will notice that Prelecture 1 and Checkpoint 1 are due at 8:00 AM on Tuesday the 25th. That is right, and assignment due before the first lecture. This should take about 30 minutes to complete and hopefully is relatively painless.

Lecture

Lectures will be synchronous starting at 9am, 10am and 11am central time. You will see a tab on the website that provides the zoom link. Note, that in order to join, you will need to authenticate with your University credentials. I've made the link active now, so if you want to try it out you should be able to go into the room. We will use iclicker cloud in these lectures. There are instructions for signing up. Note there is no cost for you. The department has purchased a license for all of the physics classes this semester!

Discussion

Discussions start the first week and will meet using zoom at your scheduled time. Again, see the zoom links tab to join your meeting. Also please review the "zoom etiquette" comments above the links to help ensure the best experience for everyone. The first week is an orientation, so nothing to prepare in advance.

Lab

The first three weeks have Prelabs (due on Friday of that week). These are asynchronous online activities in <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/> that can be completed any time before the Friday 8:00 AM deadline. They will be available starting on Tuesday, so don't panic if you can't start them right now. Week 4 is the first week that you will have synchronous labs using Zoom.

Homework

The first homework will be due on Tuesday September 1st at 9:00 AM. There is a calendar view in <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/> that can be helpful for keeping track of the deadlines for the prelectures, checkpoints, homework and prelabs. Note that the publishers allow us to give you full

access to the online content for up to 14 days without paying. So you can just start learning and deal with access codes later 😊

While the website provides us an opportunity to communicate with you, we also want to help you communicate with each other, so we have set up **Piazza** <https://piazza.com> and added you as a student. Your use of this forum is optional, but many students find it is an effective way to communicate with and help each other. The staff will also monitor this site. Please note that although you may choose to have your posts anonymous to other classmates, the staff is able to identify who made posts. So please keep your posts positive and respectful.

I hope this answers some of your questions about the course and look forward to seeing you in lecture on Tuesday.

Stay well!

Tim (your physics 211 lecturer) on behalf of the entire physics 211 team.