

Spring 2026: PHYS 121H [+ PHYS 122]-Section H02

Electricity and Magnetism, WF 10:00-11:20 AM ET, KUPF 108

This course is the second of the calculus-based introductory Physics (PHYS) series, covering topics in Electricity and Magnetism (EM, or E&M) at the introductory level. The principal **Learning Outcomes** are to demonstrate understanding and mastery of classical electricity and magnetism up to AC circuits, including Maxwell's Equations. The subject matter areas you will be assessed on include electric charge, electric and magnetic fields, forces on stationary and moving charges and currents due to electrostatic and magnetic fields, electrostatic potential and potential energy, Gauss' Law, capacitance, current, resistance, the Biot-Savart Law, Ampere's Law (w/ Maxwell's correction), Faraday's Law, inductance, DC, RC, LR, LCR, and AC circuits, including phasor diagrams and resonant oscillations if time permits.

In any/all of the subject areas noted in the first section of this syllabus, you should be able to:

- Recall and use the conceptual and mathematical definitions and be able to explain them.
- Explain the conceptual and mathematical relationships between quantities used.
- Use symmetry arguments, sketches and diagrams, graphs, field maps, algebra, trigonometry, and basic integral and differential calculus methods in interpreting material using reasoned arguments and also in interpreting and setting up textbook-level problems.
- Explain and manipulate equations and techniques developed in the text, lectures, problem examples, and in the course of working problems.
- Apply the skills above to successfully solve textbook-level problems with numeric, symbolic, or conceptual answers.
- Critically evaluate the soundness and precision of your own answers, explain and interpret your solution to problems in a way that shows understanding, and identify and appraise the range of applicability of your results, and their limitations.
- Apply conceptual and mathematical definitions including flux of vector fields, scalar potentials, and relevant line, surface and volume integral relationships to vector fields.
- Utilize dimensional arguments, scaling arguments and, limits to determine the validity of calculations.
- Solve symbolically labeled DC circuits with up to three independent currents.
- Be able to carry out algebraic manipulations with complex numbers applied to multiple loop AC circuits.
- Determine the solutions for first-order ordinary differential equations using integration.
- Solve problems with nontrivial current or charge distributions by integration.
- Determine approximate solutions for E and B for limiting cases by truncating a series expansion.
- Solve problems with numeric, symbolic, or conceptual answers. Emphasis placed on symbolic solutions.

Instructor(s): Andrew Gerrard, Professor, Chair, Dept. of Physics; Director, Center for Solar Terrestrial Research
101 Tiernan Hall, gerrard@njit.edu, <http://web.njit.edu/~gerrard>
Office hours: TBD, and other times by appointment

Class Website: <http://web.njit.edu/~gerrard>

Physics 121/122 Tutoring: Central King Building (CKB), Room G12
<https://physics.njit.edu/physics-tutoring-sign-sheet>

Pre-requisites (all with C grade or better): Physics 111 (111H) and Math 111 (111H)

Co-requisites: Physics 121A (the lab course) and Math 112 (Calculus-II)

[Note: PHYS 121A Laboratory SHOULD be taken along with PHYS 121H/PHYS 122 unless you passed it previously or have an approved exemption. It is recommended that you take the PHYS 121A laboratory at the same time as the course since the laboratory reinforces the concepts learned in the course. The Lab is otherwise a totally

separate course from PHYS121H/PHYS 122 in that the lab instructors set the requirements and grades.]

Materials for PHYS 122:

- **Textbook (Abbreviation: Y&F): "University Physics", 15th Edition, authors Young & Freedman (Pearson, 2020).** We use Chapters 21 to 31 in Volume 2. Most students now buy the e-text, which is bundled with the Modified Mastering Physics homework system. The ISBN is **9780135206348**. Students may also use the old 13th and 14th editions of the same text for reading assignments, as the section materials generally match. However, the end-of-chapter problems are numbered differently.
- **Mastering Physics Online Homework System:** Each student must obtain an access code kit that allows use of the online homework system. In addition to using the access code, each student must enroll in the Mastering Physics course using a course identifier code: **gerrard70847**

Final Letter Grades: Will be based on a term average for the semester's work that includes the common exam score, the final exam, in-class quizzes, and the term's homework score. The approximate weights to be used for calculating the term average score:

- 15% for Exam 1 (in-person exam, proctored, closed book/notes, no calculator needed)
- 15% for Exam 2 (in-person exam, proctored, closed book/notes, no calculator needed)
- 15% for Exam 3 (in-person exam, proctored, closed book/notes, no calculator needed)
- 25% for the Final Exam
- 15% for homework (performed in Mastering Physics)
- 15% for class quizzes (during Recitation Sections)

The term average values used as cutoffs for various letter grades will be in the approximate range of: 85% for A, 80% for B+, 70% for B, 65 % for C+, 55% for C, and 50 % for D and < 50% for F

Examinations: There will be three semester Exams (i.e., Exam 1, Exam 2, and Exam 3) and a comprehensive Final Exam. **The Exam schedule is:**

- **Common Exam 1: Monday, 2/23/2026, 4:15 -- 5:45 PM LT**
- **Common Exam 2: Wednesday, 3/23/2026, 4:15 -- 5:45 PM LT**
- **Common Exam 3: Monday, 4/20/2026, 4:15 -- 5:45 PM LT**
- **Comprehensive Final Exam during Finals Week, 2.5 hours long**

In-class quizzes covering preceding or current work may also be given during recitations, and the grades will count toward your final course grade. There will be no make-up quizzes and normally no make-up common exams.

Students who miss an Exam usually receive a score of zero for that exam. Students who expect to be absent from an exam should discuss their situation with their instructor PRIOR TO their absence. In order to qualify for a (rare) "make-up" Exam, a student needs to document the reason for not being able to take the test as scheduled. Under NJIT standard policy, the documentation should be presented to the student's PHYS 122 instructor AND to the Dean of Students. BOTH the PHYS 122 instructor and the Dean of Students must concur in permitting a "make-up" Exam. Students who miss Exams and do not contact and present documentation to their instructor within 7 days of the Exam will receive a score of zero for the Exam.

Mastering Physics Homework System: You will have to create an account on the Mastering Physics system if you do not have one already. You may not be able to sign up for the course your instructor is using until you have a valid Mastering Physics access code. Therefore, acquire one early and contact your instructor if this is a problem. Your instructor will announce a Mastering Physics course identifier (**gerrard70847**) for you to use when enrolling in your specific class. Use your NJIT email address as the logon ID for your account.

The Mastering Physics login is <http://www.masteringphysics.com>. See instructions at end of document to sign-up for homework. The assignments are/will be labeled HW1 to ~HW13.

Withdrawal: If you must withdraw from the course, do it officially through the Registrar before the last withdrawal date. If you simply stop attending and stop taking exams, your instructor will have no option other than to assign a course grade of "F".

Honor Code Violations: NJIT has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating of any kind and for disruptive student behavior. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students. The penalties range from a minimum of failure in the course plus disciplinary probation up to expulsion from NJIT. Avoid situations where your own behavior could be misinterpreted as dishonorable.

AI Statement: Use of AI technologies have become part of our lives in the past 2-3 years, and their exponential+ growth will likely continue. Like the invention of the calculator to replace the slide rule, then the desktop [computer] to replace the calculator, then the laptop to replace the desktop, etc., we as a society need to both appreciate these developments as TOOLS, which have strengths and weaknesses. Always remember, we still need to learn “long division” before blindly trusting the calculator.

For PHYS 121H + PHYS 122 Common and Final Exams, you will not need such technologies. That is, you will not need any AI platform, your phone, your laptop, your tablet, smart glasses, smart watches, or even your calculator. So such technologies should be closed, shutdown, put away, and not in sight at any time during such assessments. ***If you are found with such technologies, if even to “check a text”, you will be suspected of suspicious activity and reported to the Dean of Students.*** This rule will be strictly enforced, so please do not get yourselves in trouble.

General Class Expectations:

- Students are required to agree to the NJIT Honor Code at all times.
- College Rule of Thumb: You should expect to spend a minimum of 2 hours in outside work for each hour spent in class each week. That means 6 hours outside of lecture spent on this class alone.
- You should expect to be assessed on learning outcomes by means of three Common Exams, a Final Exam, in-class quizzes, and scores on homework assignments.
- You are expected to make the time to attend the Common Exams in addition to the scheduled lectures/recitation.
- Do not create distractions in class that interfere with the work of other students or instructors.
- The schedule below lists the topics covered and text readings. Do the homework problems: it is almost impossible to succeed in physics courses without working a lot of problems. The last column provides additional recommended problems to be covered in the recitation. Please work them out **BEFORE** the recitation.
- In General:
 - Read the assigned sections of the text before the lecture covering that material.
 - Do the recitation problems BEFORE the recitation.
 - Submit the weekly homework assignments before they are due.

TOPIC	TEXT CHAPTERS	RECITATION PROBLEMS
Week 1 (Jan 18): Intro to class and settling in	Chap. 1 Vector Material	1.26, 1.36, 1.37, 1.40, 1.82, 1.86
Week 2 (Jan 25): Intro to Fields, Electric Charge, and Force	Chap. 21.1-21.3	21.7, 21.11, 21.16, 21.22, 21.26, 21.27, 21.35, 21.50, 21.54, 21.55, 21.75, 21.79, 21.84
Week 3 (Feb 1): Electric Fields	Chap. 21.4-21.7	Repeat
Week 4 (Feb 8): Gauss' Law	Chap. 22.1-22.5	22.4, 22.7, 22.8, 22.9, 22.13, 22.16, 22.19, 22.23, 22.31, 22.33, 22.37
Week 5 (Feb 15): Electric Potential	Chap. 23.1-23.6	23.2, 23.11, 23.16, 23.22, 23.34, 23.44, 23.59, 23.62, 23.71, 23.80
Feb 23, 4:15-5:45 EXAM I – Chaps 1 [vector material] and 21 and 22		
Week 6 (Feb 22): Capacitance and Dielectrics	Chap. 24.1-24.6	24.5, 24.7, 24.12, 24.18, 24.21, 24.25, 24.28, 24.30, 24.39, 24.60, 24.74
Week 7 (Mar 8): Current, Resistance, basic DC Circuits	Chap. 25.1-25.5	25.2, 25.9, 25.15, 25.19, 25.28, 25.32, 25.37, 25.43
Week of Mar 15: Spring Break		
March 23, 4:15-5:45 EXAM II – Chaps 23 and 24		
Week 8 (Mar 22): Kirchhoff's Rules (nodal/mesh analysis)	Chap. 26.1-26.5	26.2, 26.8, 26.11, 26.20, 26.22, 26.23, 26.25, 26.29, 26.34, 26.42, 26.51, 26.59, 26.83
Week 9 (Mar 29): Charges and Currents in Magnetic Fields	Chap. 27.1-27.8	27.3, 27.6, 27.9, 27.14, 27.17, 27.22, 27.25, 27.30, 27.31, 27.45, 27.47
Week 10 (April 5): Sources of Magnetic Fields, Biot-Savart Law, Ampere's Law	Chap. 28.1-28.7	28.1, 28.4, 28.9, 28.13, 28.16, 28.23, 28.29, 28.33, 28.37, 28.41
Week 11 (April 12): Faraday's Law of Induction	Chap. 29.1-29.5	29.1, 29.6, 29.9, 29.14, 29.20, 29.22, 29.29, 29.32, 29.35, 29.37
Apr 20, 4:15-5:45 EXAM III – 25, 26, 27, and 28		
Week 12 (Apr 19): Inductance and RL Circuits	Chap. 30.1-30.6	30.2, 30.3, 30.6, 30.7, 30.11, 30.16, 30.19, 30.33, 30.34, 30.36, 30.37, 30.52, 30.59
Week 13 (Apr 26): LC and LCR Circuits, EM Oscillations, AC Circuits	Chap. 31.1-31.2+	31.1, 31.4, 31.7, 31.11, 31.12
Week 14 (May 5): Final Class, TUESDAY	Summary and Maxwell's Equations	

PHYSICS to EE Conversion Sheet for PHYS122

In physics: $i = \sqrt{-1}$ but in EE, i = current. So in EE, $j = \sqrt{-1}$

Gauss' Law: $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enc}}{\epsilon}$

$\oint \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{A} = Q_{enc}$

$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho$

$\vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E}$

Gauss' Law in a Material in Differential Form for EE's

$\epsilon = K\epsilon_0 = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0$

K is the "dielectric constant" = "relative permittivity," ϵ_r

In vacuum/free space, $K = \epsilon_r = 1$

Physicists call "E" the "Electric Field," [as defined by Coulomb's Law], but EE's often call D the "Electric Field" (i.e., the electric field measured in a material of ϵ).

Kirchhoff's Junction Rule

=

Nodal Analysis

Kirchhoff's Loop Rule

=

Mesh Analysis

Ampere's Law: $\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \mu I_{enc}$

$\oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = I_{enc}$

→

$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J}$

$\vec{H} = \frac{\vec{B}}{\mu}$

$\mu = \mu_r \mu_0$

Physicists call "B" the "Magnetic Field," [as defined by the Biot-Savart Law], but EE's often call H the "Magnetic Field" (i.e., the magnetic field measured in a material of μ).

μ_r is called the "relative permeability." There really isn't a term physicists use, or if there is, it varies from subfield to subfield.

In vacuum/free space, $\mu_r = 1$

(Fun fact: in many linear dielectrics, μ_r is really close to 1, so many just set μ to μ_0)

Student Registration Instructions

To register for **PHYS121H122-Electricity and Magnetism**:

1. Go to <https://mlm.pearson.com/enrollment/gerrard70847>
2. Sign in with your Pearson student account or create your account.
For Instructors creating a Student account, do not use your instructor credentials.
3. Select any available access option, if asked.
 - » Enter a prepaid access code that came with your textbook or from the bookstore.
 - » Buy instant access using a credit card or PayPal.
 - » Select **Get temporary access without payment**.
4. Select **Go to my course**.
5. Select **PHYS121H122-Electricity and Magnetism** from My Courses.

If you contact Pearson Support, give them the course ID: [gerrard70847](#)

To sign in later:

1. Go to <https://mlm.pearson.com>
2. Sign in with the same Pearson account you used before.
3. Select **PHYS121H122-Electricity and Magnetism** from My Courses.

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Make sure that your first and last name appear when registered!