

FIRST YEAR FAQ

PHYS 1210 (University Physics I) is a course for students who have taken grade 12 physics or PHYS 1190 at SMU. There are many resources to help you succeed in this course, and the primary one is the course Brightspace page. This page has all the information and links you will need, and it will be available to registered students during the week before classes begin. I will show you how to use the site on the first day of class. Some of the other course resources are listed here.

Course Structure

Many of the topics in this course were probably part of your previous physics courses. However, the conventions and assumptions used in PHYS 1210 may be very different from what you have seen before. It is very important that you make an effort to fully understand the concepts in depth and not memorize or rely on surface-level understanding. The best ways to do this are completing the readings and other assigned work on time (or early!) and attending and participating fully during classes.

This course is designed based on best practices in undergraduate physics education, which is my area of research. You may find some of the methods different from your other courses.

PHYS 1210

University Physics I



Professor: Dr. Laura Stiles-Clarke

For example, we will follow the flipped classroom format, which means that you are expected to do the assigned readings and answer a few questions about them before class. We then spend in-class time applying the concepts and looking at them in greater depth.

I hope you will come to the course with an open mind, a willingness to participate in a learning community, and a curiosity about how the universe works.

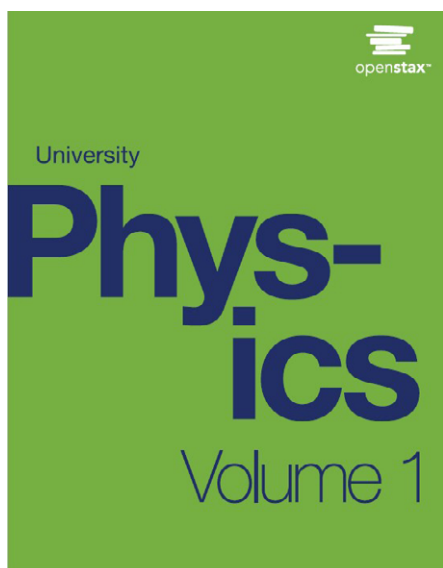
Calculators

(the same requirements for CHEM 1210)

What type of calculator do I need?

A scientific non-graphical calculator that makes it easy to do exponents and y^x functions. The Casio fx-991 or Casio fx-300 work well. Other models may also be fine. **You cannot use your cell phone as a calculator!**





Textbook

We will be using an online textbook called **University Physics Volume I** by Moebs, Ling, and Sanny. You can find it here: openstax.org/details/books/university-physics-volume-1

You can download a free PDF of the textbook, view it in a browser, or purchase a paper copy if you wish.

We will cover material from chapters 1-10 during PHYS 1210; you can start right now by pre-reading as many chapters as you would like. The course syllabus will give details about the specific sections we will cover.

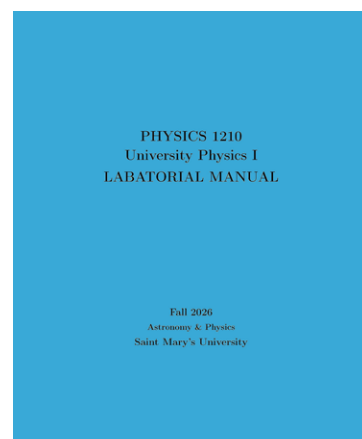
Lab Manual

As part of PHYS 1210, you will have registered for a weekly 3-hour lab session, which will begin the week of **September 14**.

These sessions are a combination of physics tutorials and laboratory activities (called labatorials), and you will do them in groups that we will assign. You will still be responsible for your own understanding of the lab material.

Before you arrive at your first lab, you will need to purchase a **PHYS 1210 Labatorial Manual** from the SMU Bookstore. The lab manual will look something like this, but check the course name carefully as there will be several different colours of manuals at the bookstore.

You must bring your lab manual with you to every lab session, **including the first one**, because you will be graded on work that you do in the lab manual.



Download the textbook right away and start reading chapter 1. Your first homework assignment, on chapter 1, will be due on the Sunday after classes begin.

See you on the first day of class.



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