

LAB PHYSICS

GRADING POLICY

2004 - 2005

The grading policy for this course is very straight forward. Each task which is performed is assigned a point value. Typical point values for these tasks are:

TESTS	100 pts each
LAB REPORTS	30 to 50 pts each
QUIZZES	15 pts each
HOMEWORK	10 to 20 pts each
PARTICIPATION/EFFORT	0% to 5% each quarter

Based on these point assignment values each marking periods grade will be made up by approximately 35% TESTS, 20% QUIZZES, 30% LABWORK, 15% HOMEWORK, and up to 3% PARTICIPATION/EFFORT.

At the end of each marking period the total points accumulated by each student is divided by the total points possible for the term. This quotient is then converted to a grade according to the following, board approved scale.

97 - 100	A+	94 - 96	A	90 - 93	A-
87 - 89	B+	84 - 86	B	80 - 83	B-
77 - 79	C+	74 - 76	C	70 - 73	C-
67 - 69	D+	65 - 66	D	0 - 64	E

With this grading system each student can determine his/her minimum grade at any time during the marking period with the exception of the participation grade which will be assigned at the end of the marking period.

In addition to the above, any student who satisfactorily completes and submits **ALL** work **ON TIME** and demonstrates **SINCERE** effort will receive a passing grade for the corresponding marking period! (But note that according to district policy, D's for 3 or fewer marking periods is **NOT** sufficient to pass the course!)

Grading for each of the tasks will be based on the following criteria

- 1. TESTS** - Generally, each test will have a point value of 100 points and there will usually be 2 or 3 tests during each marking period. [Sample tests can be found at www.jimthx.vze.com in pdf format.] If you score **85%** or below on a test, and if **ALL** homework has been completed, you will be permitted to take the test over. The two tests will then be averaged and the average will be recorded. If you score **95%** or above on a re-test you will receive the higher grade and the tests will **NOT** be averaged! Tests may be retaken **ONCE!** All retests will be given after school at a time and place designated by the teacher. All makeup tests **must** be taken within 2 weeks of the original test date. Calculators are permitted on all tests. If you are absent on the day of a test **ONLY**, you will be expected to take that test on the day of your return to school. Likewise, if you are absent **ONLY** a single day before a test you will be expected to take the test when you return to school. If you are absent 2 or more days the makeup test **must** be taken within **2 weeks** of your return to school. Special consideration will be given to long term illness.
- 2. LAB REPORTS** - Lab reports will generally be worth between 20 and 50 points, depending on difficulty, with most labs being worth 30 points. [Lab procedures can be found at www.jimthx.vze.com in pdf format.] Lab reports will generally be due 2 class days after the completion of the experiment. Late labs will be automatically **penalized 33%**. Labs submitted early will be awarded **an additional 10%**. Reports more than **4 weeks late** will **NOT** be accepted at all! The format of the reports will, in general, follow the normal format: purpose, background theory, procedure, apparatus, data, results, and conclusion. (Any of the above parts distributed in a handout do **NOT** need to be included in the lab report.) More detailed information will be supplied at the time of the first lab. A capital "A" should be placed in the upper left corner of the first page of any lab for which you were absent in order to insure that the report is graded properly!

3. **HOMEWORK** - Homework will be checked regularly and all homework is expected **to be kept in an orderly notebook** [either a spiral or 3 ring notebook will be satisfactory] so that individual assignments can be conveniently submitted as required. [All homework assignments can be found at www.jimthx.vze.com under **Homework Handouts** in pdf format and can be printed as needed.] It is expected that all homework be done carefully and neatly so as to indicate sincere effort. Each homework assignment that is checked or collected will be graded based on correctness, completeness and upon an indication of sincere effort. Late homework will be penalized **50%**. Homework more than 4 weeks late will **NOT** be accepted. If **three or more** homework assignments are missed during a marking period the grade for that marking period will be an incomplete! Quizzes will be given regularly on the material covered on the homework!
4. **QUIZZES** - Quizzes will be announced and will be a **regular part** of this course. All quizzes must be made up within **4 weeks [one month]** of their original class date. [Sample quizzes can be found at www.jimthx.vze.com in pdf format.] Quizzes may be taken over until you have reached a satisfactory level of performance. The privilege of taking quizzes over may be denied to any student who fails to demonstrate a satisfactory level of effort and all quiz re-takes must be taken at times determined **by the teacher**.
5. **PARTICIPATION** - Participation and effort during the marking period will be used to discriminate grades which are on the edge between two grades. **Up to 3%** of the total possible points **MAY** be awarded to students who; show significant improvement in performance, actively participate in class discussion, demonstrate extra effort in solving difficult problems (such as using source materials outside of the classroom), and work enthusiastically in the lab.
6. **INFORMATION** - All Students are requested to go to my website at www.jimthx.vze.com and under the heading "Student Information Form" please fill in the requested information. This information will not be available to the public and will be removed from the web site ASAP.
7. **READING & LESSON PLANS** – My lesson plans for each week will be posted on the web site at www.jimthx.vze.com by Sunday evening and can be used as a general guide as to what will be covered during the following week. All lesson plans are subject to change based on student learning and other relevant factors. The primary reading material for the course is located at <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/hframe.html> and will be referenced weekly in the lesson plans. I will also be supply class notes on the course content throughout the year.

Keep in mind that the biggest obstacle facing most students in this course is the absence of completed lab reports and/or homework assignments. It is important that you always keep up with the work because much of what is done later in the course in depends on those topics covered at the beginning of the school year. If you find yourself falling behind, try to seek out help as soon as possible. I will usually be available on Tuesdays or Thursdays until the 4:30 PM bus and I am almost always willing to stay after for 30-60 minutes for students capable of supplying their own transportation. I can be reached by E-mail at JimTHX@comcast.net and I will attempt to check my E-mail daily between 8:30 and 9:30 PM and I will respond when possible. My AOL instant messenger name is JimTHX.

Likewise, attendance in this class is very important. Since we do not use a text it may be difficult to make up all the missed work.

Please retain all returned tests, lab reports, homework assignments and quizzes in a personal file. If there is a discrepancy in your grade, it will be your responsibility to provide those materials on your behalf!