Information regarding Physics 7B and 7M

7B lectures
The lectures for Physics 7B will be held in Natural Science Lecture Hall 3 on MWF from 2:00 PM to 3:10 PM. We’ll meet 29 times during the quarter, including 26 lectures, 2 midterms, and 1 final exam, as shown on the syllabus for the course. Monday May 26 is a holiday.

7M laboratory sections
Physics 7M is a separate course, and must be taken concurrently with 7B. There will be 8 sessions, 1 each week, starting the week of April 7, except there will be no lab meetings during the week of May 26 owing to the holiday that week.

Examinations
There will be three in-class closed-book exams, consisting of two midterms on Wednesday, April 23, and on Wednesday, May 21, and one final exam on Wednesday, June 11, from noon to 3:00 PM (the scheduled time).

   I will, alas, not schedule makeup exams. If you are unable to take a midterm exam at the scheduled time, and let me know in advance, I will base your evaluation on the other midterm and the final.

Basis of evaluation
My evaluation of your work will be based primarily on your exam performance, and to a lesser extent on your performance on the weekly assigned homework. I do not grade “on a curve”, so it is possible that everyone in the class can earn an “excellent” (or an “A”) for the course.

Homework
Homework problems will be assigned at the first lecture, and on each Wednesday thereafter, with worked solutions due at start of lecture on each Wednesday. They will be graded by the readers for the course and returned to you at your next lab section meeting.

Texts
The required text is Cutnell & Johnson’s Physics, Fifth Edition. All the books that were on reserve in the Science library for Physics 7A will also be on reserve for Physics 7B. I may add a book or two to this list; if I do I will let you know.
Discussion sections

There will be two discussion sections. The meeting times will be selected at our first lecture. (One is likely to be held on Tuesdays from noon to 1:30 PM in ISB 231, but we shall see if that works for you.) The discussion sections will be led by Amanda Holt. The purpose of these sections are to review the subject matter being dealt with that week, including the assigned homework problems.

Office hours

I will hold office hours in ISB Room 318 at a time we’ll determine at our first lecture. I have no telephone on campus, but you may call me (not after 9 PM please) at my home: 423-0796. I may also be reached via email at drip@ucsc.edu, which is probably the most reliable way to get hold of me. The teaching instructors for 7M will also hold office hours, with times to be determined—all office hour information will also be available at the Physics Board Office.

Course materials

Course materials will be available on the ERes site for the course (the password will be “feynman” again). They will also be available on my own web site at http://maxwell.ucsc.edu/~drip, where a click on Maxwell’s image will take you to various documents in pdf format, including homework assignments and solutions to problems.

Well, what more can I say? I hope you all enjoy this course, which in my view is not so much about physics as it is about learning how to think clearly, so if we don’t get around to talking about every course topic in detail, it will not matter, since the thinking about what we do is what really matters.

Here is a statement by Einstein that I agree with:

It is not enough to teach man a specialty. Through it he may become a kind of useful machine but not a harmoniously developed personality. It is essential that the student acquire an understanding of and a lively feeling for values. He must acquire a vivid sense of the beautiful and of the morally good. Otherwise he—with his specialized knowledge—more closely resembles a well-trained dog than a harmoniously developed person. He must learn to understand the motives of human beings, their illusions, and their sufferings in order to acquire a proper relationship to individual fellow men and to the community.

— Albert Einstein, as quoted by the New York Times, October 5, 1952.

— Peter Scott, April 2003