

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Elementary Physics I

PHYS - 1405 - 87

Professor Laura Wright

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is an Online Only course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

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Course Description:

Conceptual level survey of topics in physics intended for liberal arts and other non-science majors. Semester Hours 4 (3 lec/3 lab)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Professor Laura Wright

MCC E-mail: lwright@mclennan.edu *preferred communication method

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8419

Office Location: HP 230

Zoom ID: 837-729-4618

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: M/W 2 pm to 4pm, T 3 pm to 4:30 pm (by appointment)

Required Text & Materials:

- *Conceptual Physics, 12th Edition* by Paul Hewitt, Pearson, ISBN 9780321909107, with Mastering Physics Access
- A scientific calculator (not your phone) for tests
- Reliable internet access

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found [here](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf) (https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Email and Brightspace will be my primary methods of communication. Please check both regularly for updates and announcements from me.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

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Forwarding Emails:

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture videos have been provided by the instructor on Brightspace. In addition, reading assignments for each week will be given, as well as online homework and tests through Mastering Physics, discussion board assignments, virtual lab assignments, and a semester project.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- To use both conceptual and numerical techniques to solve physics problems
- To understand and use the general ideas of kinematics
- To understand and use the general idea of forces
- To understand and use the general ideas of force and motion
- To understand and use the general ideas of work and energy
- To understand and use the general ideas of impulse and momentum
- To understand and use the general ideas of rotational motion
- To understand and use the general ideas of properties of matter, gravity, sound, and oscillatory motion
- To understand and use the general ideas of heat and thermodynamics

Course Outline or Schedule:

You are responsible for everything listed in the detailed calendar below. You should watch the associated videos and read the indicated pages in the textbook on or before the due date for each assignment, so that you have time to complete the assignment. This calendar is subject to change. In the event that I need to make changes to the schedule, I will send an email to the class via Brightspace as soon as I possibly can.

Week	Topic	Reading	What's due Sunday @ 11:59pm
Week 1 8/24 – 8/30	Ch. 1 – The Nature of Science	pp. 1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Orientation Quiz○ HW 1○ Discussion Board 1
Week 2	Ch. 2 – Newton's 1st Law of Motion	pp. 20-34 pp. 39-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ HW 2○ Lab 1

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8/31 – 9/6	Ch. 3 – Linear Motion		○ Discussion Board 2
Week 3 9/7 – 9/13	Ch. 3 – Linear Motion (cont) Ch. 4 – Newton’s 2nd Law of Motion	pp. 46-52 pp. 57-63	○ HW 3 ○ Lab 2 ○ Discussion Board 3
Week 4 9/14 – 9/20	Ch. 4 – Newton’s 2nd Law (cont) Ch. 5 – Newton’s 3rd Law of Motion	pp. 63-67 pp. 74-85	○ HW 4 ○ Lab 3 ○ Discussion Board 4
Week 5 9/21 – 9/27	Ch. 6 – Momentum Test 1 (Weeks 1-4)	pp. 90-103	○ HW 5 ○ Test 1 - take between 9/21-9/25
Week 6 9/28 – 10/4	Ch. 9 – Gravity Ch. 10 – Projectile Motion	pp. 160-176 pp. 182-200	○ HW 6 ○ Lab 4 ○ Discussion Board 5
Week 7 10/5 – 10/11	Ch. 7 – Energy	pp. 109-120	○ HW 7 ○ Lab 5 ○ Discussion Board 6
Week 8 10/12 – 10/18	Ch. 8 – Rotational Motion	pp. 132-152	○ HW 8 ○ Lab 6 ○ Discussion Board 7
Week 9 10/19 – 10/25	Ch. 19 – Vibrations and Waves Ch. 20 – Sound	pp. 356-368 pp. 375-387	○ HW 9 ○ Lab 7 ○ Discussion Board 8
Week 10 10/26 – 11/1	Ch. 11 – The Atomic Nature of Matter Test 2 (Weeks 5-9)	pp. 208-222	○ HW 10 ○ Test 2 - take between 10/26-10/30
Week 11 11/2 – 11/8	Ch. 12 – Solids Ch. 13 – Liquids	pp. 226-239 pp. 244-258	○ HW 10 ○ Lab 8 ○ Discussion Board 9
Week 12 11/9 – 11/15	Ch. 14 – Gases Ch. 15 – Temperature	pp. 264-277 pp. 284-296	○ HW 11 ○ Lab 9 ○ Discussion Board 10
Week 13 11/16 – 11/22	Ch. 16 – Heat Transfer Ch. 17 – Change of Phase	pp. 302-325 pp. 320-332	○ HW 12 ○ Lab 10 ○ Discussion Board 11
Week 14	Ch. 18 – Thermodynamics	pp. 336-350	○ HW 13 ○ Discussion Board 12

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11/23 – 11/29			
Week 15 11/30 – 12/6	Test 3 (Weeks 10-14)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test 3 - take between 11/30-12/4 ○ Semester Project – due 12/6
Week 16 12/7 – 12/8	Final Exam		Final Exam - take between 12/7-12/8

Course Grading Information:

Category	Percent of Total Grade
Homework	20%
Discussion Boards	5%
Lab Activities	15%
Semester Project	10%
Tests (3 total)	30%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

A: 90%+ B: 80% – 89% C: 70% – 79% D: 60% – 69% F: 0% – 59%

Orientation Quiz: Before you can complete any assignments for the course, you must complete an orientation quiz. The orientation quiz is not for credit, but is designed to make sure you understand the policies of this course. You will have unlimited attempts, but you must score an 80% or higher to unlock the course content. Please don't wait to complete the orientation quiz, so that you do not miss any important due dates.

Homework (20%): Homework will be completed through Mastering Physics. It is due each week, except for weeks there is a test. If you are having trouble with the homework, do not wait until the last minute to get help. It is your responsibility to come to my office hours and get help if you need it. There will be a 5% penalty for each day that a homework assignment is late. This is to encourage you not to fall behind, while also allowing flexibility for unforeseen circumstances. The lowest homework grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Discussion Boards (5%): each week, you will need to complete a discussion board assignment. You will be given a prompt and expected to answer thoughtfully. You may also respond to other student's posts, as long as the discussion is thoughtful and civil. Discussion board questions may be over a certain topic, or a reflection on what you have learned that week. There will be no credit given for late discussion board assignments, for any reason.

Lab Activities (15%): You will need to complete a lab activity each week. All of the labs will be completed online. They will mostly be in the form of simulations designed to enhance your understanding of each week's lessons. Instructions for each lab will be given through

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Brightspace. Please see late policy below if you are unable to complete the lab activity by the due date. The lowest lab grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Semester Project (10%): This project will be due at the end of the semester. You will pick a specific topic from the semester, and design a lesson to explain the topic to a middle or high school grade level (your choice). You can either write a paper, or you can create an online video presentation. I will provide more details on Brightspace. Please see late policy below if you are unable to complete the semester project by the due date.

Tests (30%): There will be three tests throughout the course of this semester. Please see late policy below if you are unable to complete the test in the date range given. No tests will be dropped.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will be comprehensive. It will be in the same format as the regular semester tests. Please see late policy below if you are unable to complete the final exam in the date range given.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Throughout out the semester, I may offer extra credit activities. I will post them on Brightspace as they arise.

Academic Dishonesty. Any student that is found guilty of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or collusion, will receive the zero grade on every test or assignment involved. For repeated violations, a guilty student can be assigned a failing grade in this course and can be recommended for suspension from the McLennan Community College District.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

According to MCC policy, you will be dropped from the course if you miss 25% of class. Since this is an online course, attendance will be based upon participation in the course. Students should have activity in the course (homework, test, discussion board, lab). I will run a report each week on Sundays to determine who is participating in the class. Any week in which work is not logged will count as an absence. You will be dropped after four weeks of inactivity (25% of class time). Attendance will be logged in Brightspace, and students are encouraged to regularly check Brightspace for accuracy.

You will receive a 5% penalty for each day a homework assignment is late, regardless of the reason it is late.

MCC allows for “excused” absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family, or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. It is your responsibility to let me know the reason for an

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absence the day you return to campus and provide sufficient documentation (doctor's note, email from coach, etc.).

If you are unable to complete a test, the final exam, or the semester project within the date ranges given in the calendar above, please contact me as soon as possible. If you are able to provide documentation for the MCC excused absence reasons listed above, I will make other arrangements for you to complete the test, final or semester project.

The MCC excused absence policy also includes any children you have that may become sick. If you have to miss a due date because you are caring for your sick child, please provide a doctor's note as soon as you are able, so I can make other arrangements for you to complete your work.

If you are called to active military duty that requires an extended absence, please contact me, so that we can determine the best options for you moving forward in this course.

If you wish to drop this class, for any reason, you must email me from your MCC student account before 5 pm on the last day for student-initiated drops, with the request "Please drop me from COURSE ID and SECTION NUMBER." If the email does not come from your student account, or if the request is verbal, I cannot drop you. Alternatively, there is a form you can fill out and have me sign before 5 pm on the last day for student-initiated drops. (Make an appointment to ensure I am on campus to provide the signature). After submitting your request, you must verify the drop was processed, notifying me in writing within 48 hours of your original request if it was not. Otherwise, you will stay on the roster for the rest of the semester and be awarded the grade earned. Drops past the drop date are only done in documented, extreme, life-crisis circumstances, which usually involve withdrawing from school entirely.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

[* Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

Accommodations/ADA Statement

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

[* Click Here for more information about Title IX](#)

(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape,

acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

** You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*