Physics 120  
FALL 2020

Fundamentals of Physics

Instructor: Alexander Wagner  
South Engineering 210  
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http://www.ndsu.edu/physics/people/faculty/wagner/

Meetings: 15:30 - 16:45 Tuesday, Gate City Auditorium  
and https://join.skype.com/B49u9NXxlv9g

Office hours: 11:00 - 12:00 Wednesday (Alexander)  
TBD Jacob

Text: Physics, Concepts & Connections, Art Hobson (recommended)  
Optional: Shawn Otto, The War on Science  
Optional: David C. Lindberg, The Beginnings of Western Science

Topics: What is science?, Astronomy  
Atoms, how things move, why things move,  
Newton’s universe, conservation of energy,  
Second law of thermodynamics, electromagnetism,  
Waves & light & climate change, special theory of relativity,  
Einstein’s universe and the new cosmology, the quantum idea,  
The quantum universe, the nucleus and radioactivity,  
Fusion and fission, the energy challenge, quantum fields  
We will cover about one chapter each week.

Grading: Problems in LON-CAPA: 200pts  
Test 1, Sep. 3: 100pts*  
Test 2, Sep. 17: 100pts*  
Test 3, Oct. 1: 100pts*  
Test 4, Oct. 15: 100pts*  
Test 5, Oct. 29: 100pts*  
Test 6, Nov. 12: 100pts*  
Test 7, Dec. 3: 100pts*  
Test 8, Dec. 10: 100pts*  
Participation, extra essay homework: bonus points (up to 100 points)

* No makeup exams will be scheduled. Only the 6 best grades of the eight tests count towards the final grade.

• Any students with disabilities who need accommodation in this course are encouraged to speak with the
instructor as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

- All work done in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, section 355: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/355.htm)