PHYS381: Advanced Mechanics

Instructor:  Dr. Todd Hillwig  
Office:  NSC 141  
Phone:  464-5370  
E-mail: todd.hillwig@valpo.edu

Office Hours:  M 2:00 – 3:30 pm, T 10:00 – 11:00 am, and by appt.
Class Times:  MWF 11:50 – 12:40 pm  NSC 229

Course Web Site:  http://www.physics.valpo.edu/courses/p381/  
Textbook:  Classical Dynamics (5th ed.) by Thornton & Marion

References:  Analytical Mechanics (7th ed.) by Fowles & Cassiday  (partial parallel treatment)  
Classical Mechanics by Goldstein  (standard graduate level text)

Attendance:  Your participation in class is entirely up to you. Because you have signed up for this course, I will expect you to be present for every class session. If you are unable to be present in class, please contact me. It is up to you to find out what you missed.

Readings:  I expect you to read through the assigned sections in your book prior to class. There will be occasional in-class quizzes covering the basic principles from the reading.

Assignments:  There will be weekly assignment sets which will be collected and graded. If you have difficulties with the questions, please come see me during my office hours or make an individual appointment. I prefer that you attempt the assignments on your own before seeking help. You are allowed to work with others on the assignments. However, the work must be your own. Do not simply copy what someone else has done. Also, if you are working in a group, do not arrive at a common answer and copy it point-by-point for each group member!

These assignments will be your primary means of learning the material, so please take them seriously!

HONOR CODE:  It is assumed that you subscribe to the Valparaiso University Honor Code in all of your work in this course. You must write out in full and sign the honor code on all work that you turn in. You will be told specifically what constitutes authorized aid for each assignment, exam, etc.

Exams and Final:  There will be 2 exams during the semester and one final exam. The final exam will be cumulative though it will emphasize material covered after the third exam. The exams will consist of short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

Course Grade:  

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Dept. of Physics & Astronomy  Valparaiso University  8/22/06