

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Honors Physics

Senior level

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Room Number 130

I. Course Overview:

Physics is the branch of science concerned with the properties of matter and energy and the relationships between them. It is based on mathematics and traditionally includes mechanics, optics, electricity and magnetism, acoustics, and heat. Modern physics, based on quantum theory, includes atomic, nuclear, particle, and solid-state studies. The course offers clear conceptual development and plenty of practice, working with both fundamental physical concepts and problem-solving skills. Practical application and real world examples will also be employed. Most topics will be reinforced with laboratory experiments, inquiry-based activities or projects. The course is geared toward the more independent student needing a very rigorous approach that will prepare college bound students for engineering, medical or other science-related careers.

II. Overall Course Objectives (from curriculum):

- Mechanics
- Electricity & Magnetism
- Optics & Waves
- Heat & Thermodynamics

III. Material Required:

Textbook – Modern Physics (2002), a notebook for note-taking and practice work, a folder for handouts and a calculator. A graphing calculator is recommended but **not** required for this course.

IV. Class/Behavior Expectations:

Students are expected to attend class, be on time, be prepared, actively participate, work independently to complete the assigned work to the best of their abilities and get along with others. Students are expected to come for extra help as needed. If a student is absent he/she is asked to check his/her weekly syllabus to stay on track with the material. Students are responsible for any missed work due to absence or illness; this **does** include labs and class activities. Labs must be made-up afterschool or during study hall, **within two school days of the missed lab**. Each student should select a trustworthy member of the class to contact in order to obtain any missed notes. Feel free to contact the teacher via email if absent for more than one day.

V. Grading Policy (percentages, total points, etc.):

Grades are determined by the accumulated point method. Each quiz, test, project, etc., is worth a specific number of points. Points will also be given for laboratory technique and participation. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis but will not be graded; it is considered practice. You will be at a distinct disadvantage should you choose not to practice the material. Final grades are determined by comparing the number of points attained with the number of points offered.

VI. Final Assessment Policy

For one credit or half-credit full year courses, *course assessments* (exams/activity) are given at the conclusion of each semester, a mid-term and a final. For half-credit courses, a *course assessment* (exam/activity) will be given at the end of the semester. All *course assessments*, except in selected classes, are one and one-half hours in length. All students must arrive on time and remain in class for the full duration of the period. Students taking the AP test will not be required to sit for a final exam. **Seniors are exempt from taking a final course assessment, in any course where the students have at least a 90 average for the whole course.** Physical Education classes will not be required to give an exam, but there will be a health exam which could be given earlier. Normally, no excuse for missing a *course assessment* other than illness will be accepted. The principal must give such permission.

VII. Academic Integrity Statement

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Misuse of technology

VIII. Teacher Availability for Extra Help (Day and Time):

- During Break
- Afterschool until 2:35 (except first Wednesday of the month) – no appointment necessary
- Afterschool until 3:00 – by appointment

IX. Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met by this course: Analysis

Performance Indicators	Descriptor
Usage of Resources	<i>Able to select a variety of appropriate resources/strategies to use to arrive at a solution for a question, task or problem</i>
Application & Analysis	<i>Analyzes key information, questions/tasks and problems, and makes inferences based on background knowledge, observations and/or information to arrive at a solution</i>
Organization & Evaluation	<i>Evaluates according to a given set of criteria and collects, organizes and communicates information in an appropriate format</i>
Synthesis & Reflection	<i>Evaluates process and validity of results to create new ideas and/or draws appropriate conclusions based upon knowledge and experiences from several areas</i>
Utilization of Technology (if applicable)	<i>Demonstrates an appropriate use of technology to address an objective or task when applicable</i>

Exceeding (4)	Went above and beyond the expectation	Work was completed independently	Y	N
Attaining (3)	Met the expectation			
Emerging (2)	Approaching the expectation	Assessment at grade level	Y	N
Beginning (1)	Expectation yet to be attained			