

PHYS 201L-E1: Newtonian Mechanics Lab

Spring 2018

Location: Trexler 274

Time: Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM

Instructor: Dr. Jarrett L. Lancaster

Email: jlancaster@roanoke.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10:30–11:30, Thu 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Office: Trexler 264B

Required materials: Lab handouts will be available for use during lab and also will be posted on Inquire, should you wish to print your own copy. A bound lab notebook (*sewn pages*, not spiral bound) with graph paper pages is needed, as well as a scientific calculator that is not a cellphone, and a pencil or pen.

Goals

The following five goals will serve as the framework for the activities within the lab: *Art of Experimentation*, *Experimental & Analytical Skills*, *Conceptual Learning*, *Communication*, and *Collaborative Learning Skills*. New experimental techniques will be introduced, as well as analytical tools in dealing with errors. Hopefully, the laboratory experiments will clarify and expand concepts introduced in lecture, while practicing report writing and your ability to clearly communicate accurate results to your colleagues and instructor.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- conduct scientific experiments and obtain accurate data
- discuss the results of an experiment quantitatively and qualitatively
- identify sources of error that appear in experimental methods and
- communicate experimental results in a coherent, well-organized, written manner.

Attendance Policy

Since 20% of your PHYS 201 grade depends on the laboratory, *you must enroll in both the lecture and laboratory sections of PHYS 201*, and **all experiments must be completed** or your lecture final grade will be reduced by a letter grade. Furthermore, you may *only* attend the lab section for which you are registered unless you have explicit permission from both instructors before the earlier lab section. Switching lab sections is allowed only once per semester. The lab starting and ending times are firm, although it may be possible to complete the lab before the published ending time. Makeup labs will only be permitted as a result of a discussion with the lab instructor *beforehand* or an emergency note (death, hospitalization, misdemeanor, etc.) *signed* by a governing official (medical doctor, parent, law enforcer, etc.).

Five percent of your laboratory grade is determined by the attendance and participation, an average of the weekly grades, according to the rubric shown below:

10 points	Comes prepared for class with working scientific calculator Actively participates in lab procedure, data collection/analysis, and discussion Understands the purpose of the lab, working efficiently to complete the lab on time Rotates through different tasks within the group Cell phone does not appear during the lab session Does not leave the lab more than once
5 points	May have forgotten scientific calculator, or fails to use it to calculate results May complain or waste time on other tasks unrelated to lab Uses cell phone once during lab to text/waste time May have left the room more than once May be unwilling to attempt different tasks Does not complete the lab by set ending time
0 points	Absent from lab; uses cell phone more than once during lab

Make-Up Labs

A make-up lab session is scheduled for the last week of classes. If you have missed a regularly scheduled lab and, according to the previously stated attendance policy, you have discussed this absence with the instructor before missing that lab (or have an emergency note), then you may attend the make-up session. Only **ONE** lab may be scheduled for the make-up time. The original assigned report is due five days from the make-up session.

Lab Notebooks

Each student is to purchase and bring a bound notebook with graph paper pages to lab each week. A separate document will explain the format to be used in the notebook. Due to time limitations during lab, the notebook check will be brief. A well-organized notebook is easily detectable at a glance, so pay close attention to formatting procedures outlined in the lab notebook document. The goal of the lab notebook is to practice recording data and results in a well-organized, legible format.

Each student will have his/her notebook checked before leaving lab and will be graded according to the rubric shown below:

10 points	Notebook entries are organized and formatted according to set guidelines
5 points	Entries are haphazard, illegible, not formatted according to guidelines Data were recorded in lab notebook, but not in table format Error or sample calculations were not shown or incomplete Results were not stated or were not in table format Graphs were not properly printed or did not contain adequate information
0 points	Student did not bring lab notebook, or left before notebook was checked

Lab Reports

Since one of the course objectives is to communicate experimental results in a coherent, wellorganized, written manner, it is important to practice writing lab reports. Lab reports in this course consist of three sections: *Abstract*, *Data and Results*, and *Discussion*. In order to have students create a well-written lab report, each of these three sections will be practiced throughout the year, with this semester concentrating on *Abstract* and *Data and Results*.

Most reports will be individually submitted, and a separate document will describe the format and content of the *Abstract* and *Data and Results* sections, along with a grading rubric. A few of the reports will be submitted at the end of the lab session, while other reports will be submitted through Inquire and will be due at 11:59 pm the Tuesday of the following week.

Reports will be divided into two types: A and B. The A-type report is the one that requires little individual thought. This report may involve writing a group report, submitting group data, following a tutorial for creating a particular graph or table, or writing an analysis in lab on the meaning of a data set. The A-type report may be completed in lab or submitted through Turnitin. All group reports will be A-type reports and will be written outside of class and then submitted by one member through Turnitin. B-type reports require more thought and analysis than A-type reports and each B-type report will count nearly twice the value of an A-type report. Individually-written *Abstracts* or individually-completed *Data and Results* sections are examples of B-type reports. All of the reports will be completed outside of class and submitted through Turnitin.

All individually-submitted reports must be your own work. If the submission is a graph that was originally created during lab, it still must be recreated by you for the report, and not simply copied and pasted from the original person who graphed the results. The time stamp placed on the email by the server will determine when the work was submitted. **Unless and extension is granted beforehand**, all late items will be reduced by 10% for each 24 hour period beyond the due date/time, for school days (Monday through Friday). As a result, after one week, assignments receive a 50% reduction and after two weeks assignments receive a 100% reduction; that is, no assignment will be accepted if more than two weeks late. Every report submission is worth 20 points.

Academic Integrity

Although students working within the same group will have the same data, recording of the data into the lab notebook is to be completed individually, written in table format. Group members may share Excel graphs created during lab time in order to be secured in each student's lab notebook. Error values are to be calculated individually in lab notebooks, as well as sample calculations using the data. Results should be recorded in each student's notebook.

Submitted lab reports will be written individually, and each report must be the student's original work, except for shared data. The student submitting the report must recreate all graphs and tables submitted. All reports electronically submitted will come through Turnitin (not through email). The college's academic integrity policies will be enforced.

Grading

All grades will be recorded on Inquire. Do not discard any graded work until the end of the semester. If there is a discrepancy between the recorded grade and the report, proof of the grade must be produced in order for the grade on Inquire to be changed. At the end of the semester, your overall lab average will be sent to your lecture instructor. No curves will be applied to your lab grade. The final lab average will be determined by the following:

Attendance/participation	5%
Completed lab notebook	15%
A-type reports	30%
B-type reports	50%

Use of Electronic Devices

Computers in the lab are networked, and you are required to log on to them with your Roanoke College username and password. **Do not save any work to the lab computers** unless you save it to your Z: drive or onto a personal USB storage device; all other drives are purged when you log out. During the class, the computers in this room are to be used only for the completion of assignments directly associated with this course. **Computers, including laptops, are not to be used to check email or access the Internet for personal reasons during class.**

Out of courtesy to others, **all cell phones should be silenced or turned completely off** upon arrival to class and **should be out of sight**. If you are using your cell phone during lab or continually check it for messages, then the instructor may assign a 5 out of 10 participation grade for that lab. If you are engaged with your cell phone, then you are not engaged with your lab partners and the experiment. You have been warned, so no additional warning is needed. Also, MP3 players, cameras and other personal devices are not to be used during class. Personal laptops may be used as directed.

Additional Policies

No food or drinks are allowed in the lab, except for screw-top water bottles and canteens. Also, no tobacco/e-cig devices are allowed in lab.

Students should work in groups of three or four, and you may select group members at the beginning of the semester. Students may be rotated to different groups throughout the semester, and responsibilities within the group should rotate as well, so that each member learns how to use Excel, LoggerPro and helps conduct the experiment.

Lab Schedule

Date	Lab Topic	Report
Jan 18	<i>Introduction</i>	
Jan 25	Experiment 1: Measurement and Graphical Analysis	A: Group Abstract
Feb 1	Experiment 2: Kinematics	B: Individual Abstract
Feb 8	Review for Exam 1	
Feb 15	Experiment 3: Projectile Motion	A: Group Data and Results
Feb 22	Experiment 4: Newton's Laws	A: Group Report
Mar 1	Experiment 5: Force and Equilibrium	B: Individual Data and Results
Mar 8	<i>No lab: Spring Break</i>	
Mar 15	Experiment 6: Conservation of Energy	A: Group Discussion
Mar 22	Review for Exam 2	
Mar 29	Experiment 7: Conservation of Momentum	A: Group Abstract, Data and Results
Apr 5	Experiment 8: Energy and Momentum	B: Individual Abstract, Data and Results
Apr 12	Review for Exam 3	
Apr 19	<i>Make-up Week</i>	