

To follow the links please use the electronic version of this syllabus

PHYSICS 1351

Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism

Term 2181 (Fall 2017), class# 10533

- Instructor: Dr.S. (Prof. Vladimir Savinov, a.k.a. dr.s.)
- Office: Allen Hall, 402 (note that office hours are normally conducted elsewhere).
- Office hours: time and location will be announced in class, on CourseWeb and via e-mail. Also, I am usually available right after class in Thaw 102 or in the hallway outside. I am rarely, if ever, available right before class, even for quick questions. Office hours are conducted in group environment (unless you are the only student who came to office hours). I do not do individual tutoring. Please make an effort to be there at the time when office hours start. If you show up late, you could miss an important discussion (possibly, related to your question(s)!).
- Phone#: (412) 624-9042 (NOT a good way to get in touch with me, but leaving a msg (if you really have to) should be OK).
- e-mail (THE best way to contact me): vps3@pitt.edu
Note that when an e-mail is sent to me using non-Pitt SMTP servers, it could be lost or get stuck in a filter I have no control over and can't do much about. Note that I do not check my junk e-mail folder at Pitt, all e-mail stuck there is deleted automatically. Note that I will be communicating with class using students' e-mail addresses in **pitt.edu** domain. It is your responsibility to make sure you read e-mail sent to you at **pitt.edu** regularly and none of the information is missed. All e-mails sent to class will also be posted/archived on CourseWeb.
To conclude: (1) to send me an e-mail, use Pitt's SMTP server in your e-mail client (or just use web browser to access your e-mail at Pitt) and (2) when you have questions for me please send these to me at vps3@pitt.edu.
- Lectures: Tu,Th **9:00am-10:45am**, Thaw 102 (note the time as it is different from officially scheduled).
- Textbook: *Introduction to Electrodynamics* by David J. Griffiths, 4th edition, Pearson, 2012.
- Besides the main textbook, I most strongly advise you to read (at least from time to time) *Feynman Lectures on Physics* (available online at [Caltech](http://www.caltech.edu)).

Course Description

In this class I will be focusing on the basic concepts developed to describe electromagnetic phenomena. I will extensively employ vector calculus to solve problems in electrostatics and magnetostatics using Poisson's and Laplace's equations and associated boundary conditions. You will be introduced to electrodynamics and Maxwell's equations. We will solve numerous problems describing electromagnetic phenomena. The importance of symmetries (and how to take advantage of their presence) will be repeatedly emphasized.

The lectures will generally follow the textbook (with additional material introduced in class, as needed), and most, but not necessarily all, homework problems will be from the text or based on it. In addition, there may also be assignments from outside the book on relevant material. It would be a very good idea to have regular access to the textbook. I requested a copy of the textbook to be placed on reserve at [Bevier Engineering Library in Benedum Hall](#). You can buy a copy of the textbook from Pitt's bookstore. Textbook information can be found [at publisher's web site](#) or/and at [amazon.com](#) and many other sources (google is your friend, hopefully). Textbook's ISBN-13: 978-0321856562, ISBN-10: 0321856562. I will cover most of material from chapters 1 through 7. Working knowledge of introductory physics (at PHYS174/175 level), vector algebra and vector calculus and some knowledge of differential equations (it's a co-requisite) is assumed and expected. Please keep in mind that these are prerequisites for this class. You will have to read the textbook before class and after class and do a sizeable body of independent work outside class. You will be responsible for all material from chapters (partially or fully) discussed in class (unless I tell you otherwise).

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, though I do expect students to attend lectures. Students are most strongly advised to take lecture notes during class and to study their notes later in the day / same week. If you can't reproduce calculations performed in class or/and in the book, this would be a clear sign of having trouble with class material. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up by studying the textbook, by asking other students to share their notes with you and by attending office hours to ask questions about assigned problems and to clarify material in the textbook and/or presented in class.

Courseweb

Up to date information about class, including assignments and complementary materials, will be regularly posted on Courseweb (a.k.a. Blackboard). You can access Courseweb at <http://courseweb.pitt.edu> (use your Pitt network computer account and password to log in). I will be updating class information on CourseWeb every few days.

Homework Assignments

Homework will be assigned (announced electronically on Courseweb) regularly. You are strongly encouraged to discuss homework problems with other students (though copying other people's work and/or from online sources is, of course, strictly forbidden). When you turn in your assignment (do so in class or leave it under my office door or in the box on my office door on

the day when it's due, but please NEVER leave it for me on the 1st floor of Allen Hall / *i.e.* do not leave it in my mailbox!), show all your work. Do not skip intermediate steps. Do not try to save paper/trees. Your pictures/plots/sketches should be large size. Do not turn in your scratch paper. Be neat. Do not e-mail your work to me (unless I request you to do so). Make it easy for whoever grades your work to figure out what you have done. Show ALL steps, do NOT assume that some of the steps are “obvious” or “trivial”. When working on problems together with other students indicate the names of your group's members. Copying from any solution manual may/could/will have most severe consequences associated with this. In recent years some students were expelled for such violations of academic integrity. Attend office hours. Take notes in class. Solutions to homework problems will be posted on CourseWeb. Before you ask questions of the type “what's wrong with (this or/and that step(s)) of my solution?”, please study posted solutions, try to solve the problem(s) from scratch and, if you are unable to solve the problem after that, come to see me during office hours / ask me to help, so I can explain the (posted) solution to you. I do not normally explain well what's wrong with individual wrong solutions (though I usually try my best), rather, I explain how the problem should (or could) be solved.

Grading Scheme and Other Details

There will be two midterm exams and one comprehensive (*i.e.*, cumulative) final exam. Midterms dates will be announced at a later time, but no later than two weeks before the actual exam. The final exam date is set by the university (see http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/assets/pdf/2181_EXAMS.pdf), and it is currently scheduled on Friday, Dec. 15, between 10:00am and 11:50am. The location of final exam will be announced at a later time. You should be aware of the [University Final Exam Conflict Accommodation Procedure](#) outlined in [this document](#) (you may also need [this form](#)). The final grade will be determined by your homework (~20%), midterm exams (~25% each), and final exam (~30%). If you have any questions / need anything clarified, please contact me at vps3@pitt.edu.

Supplementary References

I requested to place a copy of the main textbook on reserve at [Bevier Engineering Library](#) in [Benedum Hall](#).

The following two books (not required for this class, but may come in handy) are also placed on reserve for you:

- *Electricity and Magnetism* by Edward M. Purcell, David J. Morin, Pitt library call number **QC522 .P85 2013**, [another \(recently updated\) excellent textbook, less rigorous than Griffiths's](#).
- *Electromagnetic Fields and Waves* by Paul Lorrain, Dale R. Corson, Francois Lorrain, Pitt library call number **QC665 E4L67 1987**, [a fantastic text, unfortunately, almost forgotten now](#).

I would also like to recommend these additional books (just for your reference) that are not on reserve but probably should be:

- *Classical Electrodynamics* by W. Greiner, a volume in a series of textbooks introducing German-speaking students to theoretical physics (translated).
- *Div, Grad, Curl, and All That: An Informal Text on Vector Calculus (Fourth Edition)* by H. M. Schey, as it is called, it's an informal (and excellent) introduction to vector calculus.
- *Vector and Tensor Analysis with Applications (Dover Books on Mathematics)* by A. I. Borisenko (Author), I. E. Tarapov (Author) and Richard A. Silverman (Translator), [this book contains excellent examples for those who want to master vector calculus and beyond.](#)
- *The Classical Theory of Fields, Fourth Edition: Volume 2 (Course of Theoretical Physics Series)* by L.D. Landau and E.M. Lifshitz, [if you want to have it the hard way.](#)

Special and/or Unexpected Circumstances and Emergencies: Should such arise, please follow the following protocol: first take care of your emergency and/or unexpected circumstances and then, when you have time, send an e-mail to your teacher outlining your circumstances and the nature of your emergency. All such events will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Generally, do not rely on oral communications with your teacher, any request / explanation of some situation / any commitment must be communicated electronically. Generally, no “I” or “G” grades will be assigned in this class. All work for this course should be completed before the end of this term.

Religious Observances and Class Activities: In case your religious observances conflict with class activities / tests / homework assignments due dates and such, please alert your teacher to such possible conflicts as soon as possible and in advance.

Special Accommodations for Disability: If you have a disability that requires special testing or other accommodations, you should notify both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS) as early as possible in the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. Disability Resources and Services is located in the William Pitt Union, Room 140. If needed, please call (412) 648-7890 (voice) or (412) 383-7355 (TTY) to schedule an appointment with them. A comprehensive description of the services provided by DRS can be obtained at [their web site](#).

Academic Integrity: All students (and the instructor) in this course are expected to follow the University of Pittsburgh Academic Integrity Code. If you are not aware of the specifics, you should obtain a copy of the Academic Integrity Code from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, 140 Thackeray Hall, or look up this info online at [their web site](#). Violations of the Academic Integrity Code by a student may result in a zero score for an examination/homework/other or/and a failing grade for the entire course.