

Mastering Physics Guide
PHYS-201: FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICS III
Spring Quarter 2010/2011: 03/28/2011—06/10/2011
MPURBANC89099

What is *Mastering Physics*? *Mastering Physics* is an on-line program that allows you to learn interactively, solve problems, use hints, and get an instant feedback on your solutions. All homeworks in the present course will be done through *Mastering Physics*. The assignments include *Introduction to Mastering Physics* and nine (9) homeworks that need to be submitted *weekly* through the on-line *Mastering Physics*. Each homework assignment is due at the end of the week on Sunday at 11:59 pm. The assignments are open to all enrolled students, starting 03/27/2011 at 11:59 pm.

How to Enroll in the *Mastering Physics* On-Line? Special Drexel Package of the course textbook by Young and Freedman contains an access code that will let you enroll in the *Mastering Physics*. Go to <http://www.masteringphysics.com/site> and choose the option to register as a new student for the PHYS 201 course, encoded **MPURBANC89099**.

Technical Help with *Mastering Physics*. If you experience, technical difficulties you can get help in one of the following ways:

- (a) Send an e-mail to Ms. Lee Monroe (Lee.Monroe@Pearson.com). Ms. Monroe is local and will help you promptly.
- (b) For immediate help you may call: 1-888-547-4415.
- (c) On the welcome page, in the lower left corner, there is a link, entitled *Problems? Contact our support team*. You may request to chat with a live agent about any technical difficulties you may be experiencing.

Homework Assignments: Once registered for the course, the course homepage will display. By clicking on the *Assignment List* in the menu, you will access the list of all homework assignments. Other options on the menu include: *Current Assignment*, *Current Item*, *Previous Item*, and *Next Item*. You can use these for easy navigation through the current homework assignment. In addition, the menu option *eBook* enables you to access the on-line version of the course textbook entitled, *University Physics* by Young and Freedman. The menu option *Study Area* contains interactive learning physics problems with a number of applets, videos, and questions relevant to understanding the physics concepts taught in the class.

It is recommended that you complete the assignment *Introduction to Mastering Physics* because it will train you to use various features of the on-line *Mastering Physics* program and thus acquire the necessary skills for solving homework problems. This assignment is for practice only and will not contribute to your homework credits. The homework assignments consists of problems that are sorted from the least demanding to progressively more advanced. You can solve them in any order you wish and there is no limit or penalty on the amount of time you spend on the homework assignment. You can take any number of breaks and return to the problems later. Make sure that *you click the submit button* once you're done with the problem.

Mastering Physics was chosen because of its most advanced, user-friendly on-line homework system, supported by servers that are practically never down. Beware of the following features of the homework assignments:

- (1) Each homework assignment has 5 problems, each amounting to 20 credit points, and an extra credit assignment, which amounts to 10 extra credit points. It is estimated that each homework assignment should take about 60 ± 10 minutes to complete.
- (2) Most problems in homework assignments have randomizers: each student will have different values assigned to variables and answer for each student will be different.
- (3) Homework problems come with variety of hints and feedback for incorrect answers and should be done independently. Recitation TAs do not have access to *Mastering Physics* and will not provide you with any help with your homework assignments.¹

Homework Grading Scheme: The grading scheme is implemented in the *Mastering Physics* program before the course begins and will not be modified for the duration of the course. Briefly, here are the basic grading rules:

- The number of attempts to answer any homework problems is unlimited.
- You will neither gain nor lose credit by using hints.
- You will *lose 5% credit for incorrectly answering any question*, including a multiple-choice, true/false question, or other kind of a question.

Late Homework: The rule on a late homework is strict. Beware that *you will lose 10% of the total homework credit ever hour after the deadline* (Sunday at 11:59 pm). All homework assignments are available on the first day of the Spring Quarter, so you can plan ahead and give yourself enough time to complete the assignments.

Practice Problems: To help you prepare for each homework assignment and also for exams, a set of practice problems for each chapter is identified. These practice problems *are not graded* and you may use all hints you need and repeat them as many times you wish. Note that all the homework assignments will remain open to you until the end of the course, for practice purposes. If you work on a homework assignment past the deadline date, you will not gain or lose any credit.

¹ If you have questions on the End-Of-Chapter problems in the textbook, recitation problems, or conceptual questions, TAs will be available to help you.