

What you should do today - Wednesday, January 4, 2006

- Ask all your questions, and participate actively in class.
- Read the flowchart handout, the syllabus, and the assignment sheet.
- Check out the class webpage and the Carmen webpage (don't worry about WebAssign for now, I'll tell you more about that on Monday).
- Get the book, read "From Me to You" (pages xv - xvii), the Introduction (pages xxv - xxvii) and Chapter 1, Sections 1 - 5. The reading will prepare you for Friday's Reading Quiz - a chance to earn extra credit.
- Do the assigned workbook exercises (see assignment sheet handout or the web): Ch 1, Exercises 1 - 9. They are due on Friday, at 9:10am.
- Review the material covered and practiced in class. If anything seems unclear, ask me.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Physics 131 - What you should do ...

... before coming to class

- Check the assignment sheet for the day, and any material posted on the web.
- Complete the assigned workbook exercises, they cover the material from the last class. Ask me for help if you run into any trouble.
- Read the assigned sections in your textbook; while reading, pay particular attention to “Looking Ahead” and “Looking Back” at the beginning of each chapter, as well as Tactics Boxes and Problem Solving Boxes.
- Make notes of questions you'd like to ask in class.

... in class

- At the beginning of class (MWF 9:10am), hand in the workbook exercises and take the reading quiz for extra credit.
- Participate actively, practice the concepts and techniques.
- Ask all the questions you have. Keep in mind that your class mates will have similar questions - asking them will help everybody. The only “stupid” question is the one you don't ask.

... after class

- Review the material we covered and ask yourself if there is still anything unclear. If that is the case, come and see me.
- Do the workbook exercises. You may discuss the exercises with your class mates, but avoid straight copying (see “a word on collaboration” in the syllabus).
- Work out the end-of-chapter problems assigned in WebAssign that refer to material covered in class that day. As for the workbook exercises, working with your class mates is a good idea. Practicing physics every day for a short time is much more effective than trying to do all the homework in one session just before the deadline.

If you do all this, you will be well prepared for quizzes and exams, and learn lots of useful concepts, methods, and skills for engineering and other fields. Physics 131 is ... mostly harmless.