

PHY138Y1Y: Physics for the Life Sciences I

“Physics is the universe’s operating system.”

-- Steven R. Garman

People of PHY138Y

- Course coordinator: Dr. Pierre Savaria
 - Lecturers
 - Laboratory and Demonstration Technologists
 - 1st Year Assistant Coordinator
 - About 50 Teaching Assistants for Tutorials and Laboratories
 - Laboratory coordinator
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2 Parts of PHY138Y

□ “Theoretical Physics”

- Lectures and Tutorials
- Coordinator: Dr. Pierre Savaria

□ “Experimental Physics”

- The Laboratory
 - Coordinator: Dr. Vatche Deyirmenjian
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Dr. David Harrison

- PhD – U. of T. – Elementary Particle Physics
 - Professional Interests:
 - Foundations of Physics
 - How people learn
 - Effective use of computers in teaching
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Doing Well at University

- Time Management is very important.
 - Take responsibility for yourself.
 - Consider joining or forming a study group.
 - When problems or questions arise, contact the prof, TA, etc.
 - Ignored problems do not go away, they just get worse!
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About Learning Physics 1

There are only a few powerful *concepts*.

- Once you understand the concepts, their application to numerical problems is easy!
- Memorising formulas is not a good learning strategy.

In PHY138, tests and exams will tend to emphasise concepts.

About Learning Physics 2

Each concept builds on previous ones.

Assimilating any powerful concept takes time.

- ❑ Keep up with your studies.
 - ❑ The "last minute cram" before a test or exam is unlikely to help.
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Imagine your are taking a course on Shakespeare:

- ❑ The course is discussing *Hamlet*.
- ❑ You have not read the play.
- ❑ The professor asks:

"But why didn't Hamlet obey the ghosts, and thus save seven of the eight lives?"



Bring:

- ❑ The colored cardboard rectangles to every class.
 - ❑ **Student Workbook** to every tutorial.
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Assignments:

- ❑ By Wednesday's class: Read Chapter 1 of the textbook.
 - ❑ Establish your *MasteringPhysics* (MP) account now.
 - ❑ By Friday at 5PM: Finish "Pre-Course Assessment Quiz" on MP.
 - ❑ By Monday Sept. 19 at 10AM: Finish "Pre-Class Quiz Chpts 2-4" on MP.
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