

Examples of positively framed syllabus language from Physics 192 (Spring 2022)

A note on missed assignments

Flexibility is built into the system. Most assignments have built-in drops. This means you don't need to inform your instructor if you miss an assignment or class. There are two important reasons for this: it allows us to treat all our students as fairly as possible by not requiring us to judge what constitutes a "valid" reason. In addition, students may miss a class or assignments for personal reasons they'd prefer not share. The drop system prevents students from having to share these details. However, if there is a serious or ongoing issue, please feel free to reach out to your instructor for support and to discuss accommodations if necessary.

Class

What: In-person lectures designed to further explain and clarify the material presented in the FlipIt videos, as well as provide practice applying the concepts and equations. Class requires your active engagement and you're expected to actively participate in various kinds of group discussions and in-class activities. Class will also assume that you've already watched the FlipIt videos.

Why: Class discussion refines your understanding and further clarifies points that may be confusing in the FlipIt videos, as well as solidifies the conceptual groundwork necessary to apply the concepts and equations for the topic to solving multi-step, complex problems. Class time also provides detailed examples of how the concepts and equations are applied to model real-world situations and predict the outcome. Class time is designed not only to demonstrate the mathematical application of physics concepts, but also to describe the entire thought process required to model, visualize, solve, and assess complex problems. Following the methods demonstrated in class will lead to improved problem-solving abilities during on homework and on exams.

Effective study skills: Class will only be effective if you fully engaged in it. Take control of your own learning by actively participating in discussions, following along with the examples, and asking questions or requesting clarification when necessary. Support an atmosphere of learning and growth by approaching discussion and questions as a means to "think out loud." Allow others (as well as yourself) to revise and clarify ideas and positions in response to new information and insights. And remember, it's okay to be wrong! Everyone makes mistakes and learning from them is one of the most effective ways to master material. Respectfully correct someone if they have made a mistake, including the instructor.

Additional notes: Your participation grade will be primarily based on your responses to discussion questions through Poll Everywhere. You'll be graded only on participation, not on correctness, although it will greatly help your learning if you do your best. Because illnesses, conflicts, and other unforeseeable issues can arise, excused absences are built into the grading system (which means you don't need to tell your instructor about your absence). To receive full credit for participation, you're expected to answer at least 80% of the Poll Everywhere questions posed in class. If you miss more than 20% of the questions, your attendance score will be scaled accordingly. If you have an ongoing issue that affects your attendance, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.