Course Syllabus

Lecturer: Dr. D. J. Drake  
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Office: Nevins Hall 2210  
Office hours: T&R 12:30-1:30 pm, F 12:00-1:30 pm, and by appointment


Hours of Credit: 1

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to the fundamentals of research in the area of plasma physics.

Educational Outcomes and Assessments:
1. Outcome: Students will demonstrate knowledge in the field of plasma physics.  
   Assessment: All students will present a final project at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the spring semester, see Final Project information below.
2. Outcome: Students will apply the techniques of mathematical analysis to physical problems.  
   Assessment: All students will use mathematical tools to do a theoretical calculation based on a specific theory in plasma physics.
3. Outcome: Students will effectively use computers and calculators for scientific calculation and word processing.  
   Assessment: Students will use Matlab, or another computational language, to perform detailed calculations on experimental data in order to verify a theoretical prediction in plasma physics.

Final Course Grade: A letter grade is determined only at the end of the term. Course grades will be based on test grades, final exam grade, assigned homework, laboratory work, and quizzes. The relative weight is the following:

- Final Project: 50%
- Meetings and Progress Reports: 20%
- Research Journals: 30%

The course grading scale will be follows:

- A 90% - 100%
- B 80% - 89%
- C 70% - 79%
- D 60% - 69%
- F 0 - 59%

Final Project: At the end of the semester all students will give a poster presentation at the based on their current research. This presentation will include a paper with a minimum of 10 pages.
Papers must be double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins. All papers must have the page number in the bottom right hand corner, except the cover page which should list the title, your name, date, and the course title and number. A reference page must be included and all references must be formatted in the style of Physical Review. More information about exact content and layout for both the poster and paper will be given in the first individual meeting of the semester.

Meetings and Progress Reports: Students will meet individually at least once a week with the professor to discuss progress. Students will also be required to turn a 2-page progress report every two weeks detailing any successes or problems.

Research Journals: All students must keep an up-to-date research journal. This journal will be turned in the first of each month for review and on the last day of classes for the semester. More information regarding exact formatting and content will be given during the first meeting of the semester.

Attendance Policy: The university attendance policy states, "The university expects that all students shall regularly attend all scheduled class meetings held for instruction or examination." An attendance sheet will be provided at all lectures, recitation, and laboratory meetings. You are expected to sign the sheet for all scheduled sessions. In addition, "All students are held responsible for knowing the specific attendance requirements as prescribed by their instructor. . . . When students are to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor. A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.” Any student missing more than 20% of the lecture and recitation sections will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. Alternatively, any student missing 20% or more of the assigned laboratory sessions will be subject to a failing grade for this course.

There are six categories of acceptable reasons under which a student may request a make-up test or exam. Make-up tests will be determined by the professor and at the sole discretion of the professor. These assignments may or may not exactly duplicate the original test or exam.

- **Death or serious illness in the immediate family.** The immediate family includes spouse, children, parent, siblings, grandparents and uncles/aunts. Verification may be required.
- **Serious illness or injury of the student.** A physician/health care professional must be consulted about the injury or illness, and home-rest or hospitalization that would prevent your attendance, must be prescribed. **Required Verification:** A letter from the student’s physician is required, noting the duration of the time that the student was directed to rest at home.
- **Court ordered appearances or a call to jury duty.** **Required Verification:** A copy of the official notification.
- **Military duty and deployments.** **Required Verification:** A duty bill, note from the commanding officer or a copy of the deployment orders is required.
- **Religious prohibitions.** Verification may be required.
- **Collegiate Athlete.** Verification required
**Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI):** At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses three days after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs, and student compliance may be considered in the determination of the final course grade. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at [http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/directions-for-accessing-and-completing-sois.php](http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/directions-for-accessing-and-completing-sois.php)

**Disruptive Behavior Policy:** Disruptive students may be removed from the class. Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to: offensive language and behavior, incessant talking, interrupting class with personal or nonacademic concerns, distracting students from the task at hand, drawing on desk tops, taking frequent unscheduled breaks, annoying other students, tardiness, leaving early, using cell phones, or pagers in class, etc. All cell phones, pagers, and beepers must be turned off or set on vibrate during class time. If you realize that you have an incoming call that you must attend to, leave the room quietly to do so. Do not attend to it in class. Students are responsible for being aware of the policies, procedures and student responsibilities contained within the current edition of the Valdosta State University Catalog and Student Handbook.

**Disability Services Policy:** Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. As such, reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities provided those students have registered with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities in Faber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP), and 229-219-1348 (TTY). Present your instructor with the documentation. For more information, please visit [http://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/](http://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/) or email: access@valdosta.edu.

**Students Experiencing Academic Difficulties:** Students with academic concerns are strongly encouraged to contact the staff of the Student Success Center or call them at 229-333-7570. The Student Success Center is located on first floor of Langdale Residence Hall on the main VSU campus. Services provided by the Success Center include tutoring, writing assistance, and help with time management. Students are encouraged to make appointments with Center Staff through the website or by telephone. The center is available to all VSU students, and evening appointments are available at [www.valdosta.edu/ssc](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc).

**Technology Assistance:** This course will require access to the internet for all homework and pre/post-lecture assignments. Students having technology problems may contact the Help Desk by phone at 229-245-4357 or e-mail a question at helpdesk@valdosta.edu. The Help Desk is located on the 2nd floor of the Odum Library.
Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty Policy: Students are expected to abide by the VSU Academic Integrity code. "Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members’ syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics." Violation of academic honesty includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Cheating on an examination or quiz – either giving or receiving information.
2. Copying information from another person for graded assignments, including that information obtained from an Internet source.
3. Using unauthorized materials during tests.
4. Collaborating during examinations.
5. Buying, selling or stealing examinations.
6. Arranging a substitute for oneself during an examination.
7. Substituting for another person, or arranging such a substitution.
8. Plagiarism – the intentional or accidental presentation of another’s words or ideas as your own.
9. Submission of work other than your own for written assignments.
10. Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.
11. Collaboration with another person or persons in submitting work for credit in class or lab, unless such collaboration is approved in advance by the instructor.

Any student found committing any of these violations will automatically receive a failing grade for the entire course. For more information visit http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php

Course Compliance Statement: Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.