**SYLLABUS FOR *GENERAL PHYSICS - PHYS 201-202***

**Term**: Spring 2017

**CRN/Section:** 4803

**Location:** S277

**Time:** TR 9:30-10:45 am

**Text: College Physics,** Etkina, Gentile and Van Heuvelen, ISBN-13: 978-0-321-71535-7

**Instructor**

Thomas Wilson, Ph.D.

Office: S153

Phone: (304) 696-2752

**Office Hours**

MWF from 3-4 PM, in S153

You may seen if I am available at other times (schedule is posted on my door) by coming by my office or lab (S154), but your chances for discussions will be better if you make an appointment. I will be happy to provide hints for how to proceed with the assigned homework.

**Overview**

The course covers the ideas of classical mechanics and wave motion as expressed by Newton’s Laws. My lectures will include material not explicitly described in the text. Help yourself - sit as close to the front of class as possible to facilitate good notetaking and interaction. I will do my best to help you succeed.

**Lecture**

We will cover in sequence Chapters 1-6, skip to Chapters 19-20, and then return to Chapters 7-11, with supplementary material as necessary. This is the subject of Newtonian mechanics. You will be responsible for reading carefully the textbook chapter material at the rate of approximately one chapter per week in order to do well on the exams and on the assigned online homework. I will inform you weekly which chapter you should read for the following week. We may also be using clickers that will be distributed and returned after select lectures.

**MasteringPhysics for On-line Homework**

In addition to the text, students will also need an access code to allow you to register and use MasteringPhysics (*MP*) ([www.masteringphysics.com](http://www.masteringphysics.com)) for the weekly on-line homework. The on-line homework will count 20% towards one’s grade. The access code for registration for *MP* was bundled with the text in the bookstore, or it may be purchased online at the link above. To register you should enter our course ID: **MPWILSON84364**. **You must also use your Marshall student ID** (typically it begins with 901…) as your student ID. Also, use your Marshall email address for *MP* registration. Scores for the MP homework will only be viewed at the *MP* course website (not on our *Blackboard* course site). One of the first assignments provides an orientation to the MP protocols for entering symbolic expressions as well as numbers in scientific notation. You may be able to cut and paste if you need to correct a slight error without retyping the entire expression.

It is imperative you plan to devote three to five hours weekly on the assigned homework. If you’ve invested this amount of time in solving the homework and you find that you still score less than 60% on the first few MP homeworks, you should consider dropping the course.

You may collaborate on homework within reasonable limits but I caution you that 90% of the homework should be your own work, otherwise your exam scores will suffer accordingly.

**Attendance and Policy**

Attendance at all class meetings with prompt arrival is expected. Excused absences will be granted provided I receive written notification from the Office of the Dean of Students.

Excused absences and other University policies are described in detail at: <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802>). For university-approved excused absences on scheduled exam days, accommodations for a make-up exam can be made. A student who misses an examination without an excused absence will receive a 0% for that exam.

**Basic classroom etiquette:** Cellphones and computers are not to be used during class. Disruptions during class due to loud conversations will not be tolerated and the parties involved will be asked to leave.

**Exams**

There will be three exams and a comprehensive final examination, each worth 20% each in the determination of one’s course grade. The exams will be closed book with multiple-choice questions; only calculators are allowed during the exams (with no stored formula):

Exam I: Tuesday, February 7th

Exam II: Tuesday, March 7th

Exam III: Tuesday, April 4th

Comprehensive Final Exam: Tuesday, May 2, 8:00 am -10 am

Anyone caught cheating will receive a 0% for that examination, which in most cases will also result in a grade of F for the course – enough said.

**Grades**

Grades are as follows (thresholds given as %) for the various components:

MP: 20%

Exams: 20% each

Letter grades will correspond to the following threshold percentages:

A 90%, B 80%, C 70%, D 60%, F- below 60%

A request for an incomplete will be approved provided that one has taken one of the first two exams.