Welcome to Physics XX

**STAFF:** The Physics XX course is taught by Prof. XX (XXX-XXX-XXXX) assisted by YY.

**CLASS HOURS:** The class meets XXX, X:XX-X:XX PM in ROOM XXX. Much of the work in this course must take place in the classroom; therefore attendance at all sessions is required. If you must be absent, it is important that you contact XXX before class. Unavoidable absences not related to an illness should be discussed with the instructor in advance. Repeated absences will significantly lower your grade. Cell phones should not be used during class.

**CURRICULUM:** The text for the class is *Physics by Inquiry* by Lillian C. McDermott and the Physics Education Group at the University of Washington (Wiley, 1996). It is available from the University Bookstore.

**MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:** You must have a 3-ring notebook in which to keep your notes and course materials. You are expected to keep a record of your experimental findings and/or data. You should keep a complete and organized notebook both for future reference and as a journal of your ideas and how they evolve. Notebooks may be checked periodically.

**EXAMS:** There will be one midterm exam and a final. No makeups will be given. If you do not take the final exam you will receive a 0.0 for the course. Exceptions for emergencies are handled on an individual basis. Exams will be “open-book.” A good way to prepare for the exams is to review homework assignments, the work you have recorded in your notebook, as well as questions presented in discussions with other students and staff members.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework may be either handwritten or composed on a computer and printed. Graphs must be made on graph paper. Keep in mind that this is a writing class. You should use complete sentences, appropriate grammar, and correct spelling. Your responses should be no longer than one single-sided page. Maximum credit will be given for concise, well-written answers. The work you submit should reflect your best effort and demonstrate your developing understanding of the topic. In explaining your reasoning, you should try to do it carefully and clearly, including all the logical steps that are required to arrive at your answer. You will be asked to redo and resubmit homework that is unsatisfactory. Resubmitted homework is due at the beginning of the next class. We encourage you to discuss homework with classmates and the instructional staff. However, class time should not be used to complete homework assignments. Failure to turn in homework assignments will significantly lower your grade.

**PAPERS:** Emphasis is placed on your ability to provide a written discussion of the concepts you are studying, as well as the reasoning you use to arrive at your conclusions. Two paper assignments will be given. The papers will be based on your work in class and should not require outside research. Paper topics and more detailed instructions will be given later in the quarter. Failure to turn in either paper will result in a grade of 0.0 for the course.

**CHECKOUTS:** Certain key experiments and exercises direct you to have your responses checked. In general, you should not proceed to the next experiment or exercise until after you have discussed your answers with a staff member.

**COURSE GRADE:** The final grade for the course will be based on your performance on the midterm, the final exam, the two term papers, homework, and class participation.

**PARTNERS:** On the first day, you will choose partners with whom to work in the class. It is important that partners engage in discussion of their work and avoid working as isolated individuals. Homework, papers, and exams will be evaluated individually.