

The Lost Lecture

Since the university was closed on Thursday 10 December 2009 – and the blizzard forecast had already caused Dr. Phil to cancel the last class – here's some of what would have been covered:

FINAL EXAM

300,000 points (twice that of the regular exams)

75 questions (4000 points each)

Cumulative (covers the whole course)

Roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ Unit 1, $\frac{1}{4}$ Unit 2, $\frac{1}{4}$ Unit 3, $\frac{1}{4}$ Unit 4

Remember that if you do well on the Final, it may help you “fix” one bad grade from Exams 1-3.

TWO ADDITIONAL THINGS AT FINAL:

(1) When you finish the exam, you cannot just drop off your paper and go. First you will fill out a Check-Out form, which counts as Quiz 10 (15,000 points). You will need to wait for Dr. Phil to go over the Check-Out form. If you don't remember what your five-digit PID number is, you will be able to invent a new PID number – my system allows for you to have two different PIDs. There may be a line for a while if a lot of people finish at about the same time. That leads us to:

(2) Originally I was planning on a 100-question Final Exam, but since we lost the last class day, we did not get a chance to do the Course Evaluation forms. Good news – more people will be at the Final than have been regularly showing up to class. (grin) So the Course Evaluation forms will be available at the Final.

OFFICE HOURS

Weather permitting I plan on having Office Hours (roughly 11:30am to 3:30pm) on Friday 11 December, Monday 14 December, Wednesday 16 December and Friday 18 December 2009. See the Office Hours on the website. If you miss the Final Exam on Tuesday 15 December from 12:30 to 2:30pm in 1104 Rood, you need to make arrangements to take a make-up Final Exam – or take an Incomplete. Due to weather and H1N1, I will be giving an Incomplete to any who don't take the Final, rather than flunk them. Generally speaking, it is harder to get back into things in January (or later) to take a late Final, than taking care of this semester.

GRADING

Topic 1 papers will *not* be graded by the Final on Tuesday – the papers are usually the last thing I grade. Grades are due at the Registrar by Noon on Tuesday 22 December 2009. Unless I have already posted grades on the website, do NOT call me before 1pm on Tuesday if you are desperate to know what your final grade is.

WHAT TO STUDY

We've covered a lot of material this semester. But there are several ways to break things down. First of all, you have access to several Sample Exams (with answers), plus Solutions to Exams 1, 2, and 3. It may benefit you to go over your previous exams and look at the questions you did not get correct – and no one got all the questions correct on any of the three exams – and try to understand both the correct answer and perhaps why you missed the problem the first time. In a multiple-guess test, you may be able to eliminate some of the answers or realize that if more than one answer seems plausible, the answer might be All Of The Above.

We have had four Units of study – each Unit may feature one or more really important diagrams or lists. For example, the order of colors of stars (O B A F G K M), the H-R diagram, the life cycle of a G star and an O star, Newton's and Kepler's Laws, what could be seen in the night sky before telescopes. There are some key numbers, such as the temperature needed for hydrogen or helium fusion, lifetimes of stars, time to settle down from protostar to star. You can review the In Class Notes, the material I projected on the screen in the classroom, and the lecture notes (This Week In PHYS-1060) webpage, for topics we covered. And then of course we have your textbook, which is also organized for your study.

You may find it useful to go over your notes and talk with other students. Alas, because of our lost class day, it may be a little hard to find other students in the class if you aren't already hanging out with them. Also, given the attendance lately, a lot of you may not know who is in the class because you haven't been showing up.

Biggest thing to remember? Relax – you'll have plenty of time to work on your exam. I'd recommend that you cross out clearly wrong answers or circle correct answers on your test booklet, then make sure you're putting the correct answer in the correct bubble on your Scantron sheet.

Hope this is of some help to you – and sorry we couldn't have gotten together for one last class as scheduled.

Dr. Phil