

# General Physics Lab 1

## Overview and Syllabus Spring 2014

Jose Martinez

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Email: [jmarti08@nmt.edu](mailto:jmarti08@nmt.edu)

Office Hours: Fridays, 10am - 12pm. Workman 318.

### 1 General Instructions

Grading:

Raw Data/Lab Work	40%
Lab Reports	40%
Quizzes	20%

#### 1.1 Lab Reports

- Must be uploaded to the moodle platform
- Graphs and tables are not worth points but your grade will significantly drop if your analysis does not contain either of these.
- Rubrics for the weekly reports:

Introduction	10%
Pre-lab exercises	10%
Analysis	40%
Questionnaire	20%
Conclusions	20%

- Not every section in the lab manual has a questionnaire or pre-lab section. Any section that is missing will make the analysis part count more for each report.
- Lab reports are individual. You can share data and results with your lab partner but you must do each lab report on your own.
- Lab reports are due every week. Deadlines will be indicated on the moodle platform.

Required parts of the report:

1. Front page
2. Introduction: Must contain general ideas about the topic without any in-depth theoretical background. A student can state their expected results before working on each lab session.

3. Theoretical Background: As part of the analysis the student is expected to do a brief research on the theory related to the MAIN concepts discussed in each lab session. The manual itself contains theoretical discussion but it is only limited to what is expected before starting each lab. Any research done must be appropriately cited and referenced. If you are quoting the exact words from another author, quotation marks must be included at the beginning and end of each quote. At the end of the quote, the student must include (Last Name of author, year). If the student does not want to write that after every quote, a footnote can be included. Complete references must be included at the end of every report. If you are quoting with your own words, you still have to cite but quotation marks can be omitted. Not following these instructions constitutes plagiarism and will be severely penalized. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, you can consult several references, including one at the NMT library (<http://infohost.nmt.edu/nmtlib/INFO/ORef/plagiarism.html>)
4. Analysis:
  - Graphs and tables must be labeled and numbered. Appropriate descriptive captions should be included..
  - A complete analysis must never be shorter than 3 paragraphs long (not including graphs and data tables) or longer than 3 pages. It is important to acquire skills to summarize main ideas and concepts.
5. Conclusions: Must be separated from the analysis and must establish if the most important objective were fulfilled or not. Conclusions must be briefly and concisely justify the accomplishment of the objectives.
6. References: All lab reports must be presented in an original manner with appropriate references.

## 1.2 Quizzes

- Before each lab session begins, a short quiz will be applied.
- It is important that students at least have an idea of the work to be done in each session before it actually begins.
- If you arrive late, you are not allowed to do the quiz and your quiz grade for that session is a zero.

## 1.3 Laboratory Notebook/Raw Data Sheets

You don't need a laboratory notebook but it is highly suggested to take notes during class. You will be handed a raw data sheet at the beginning of each class which you must fill out before you leave. After it's been filled out, it must be signed by your instructor in order to receive full credit for it.

## 1.4 Final grade schedule

Score	Grade
0-60	F
60-66	D
66-69	D+
69-72	C-
72-76	C
76-79	C+
79-82	B-
82-86	B
86-89	B+
89-92	A-
92-100	A