

For students who may have joined the course late, here are some information emails I sent at the beginning of the semester. To obtain a zoom link to attend the online classes, send me an email.

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January 17:

Greetings All, I hope you are had a good break and that you are staying safe and healthy. I will see all of you soon when we start classes, but this email is to fill you in on our Physics 207 course for this year.

As you know, our class is online. We will use Zoom for lectures, and I will send a followup email tomorrow with the link for the Tuesday morning zoom class. You also have a recitation section, which is the 80 minute session on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Those will also be conducted on Zoom but they will not start until the second week, more on those later. Also there are 3 Friday exams, those are the dates you saw in the schedule when you signed up. Sorry about the Friday evening times, we didn't have much choice about that when TAMU rearranged the schedule for Covid.

The syllabus can be seen at the <http://physics207.physics.tamu.edu> course webpage, and when you log into eCampus you should the course there, we use eCampus for exams, homework, and grade posting. The course webpage has information about the textbook, which is the same as what is in the bookstore. If you buy the text separately or used, factor in the charge for the Sapling homework site when comparing pricing, see the note on the webpage about that. We will also use Reef polling, but don't pay any Reef access fees yet, since there is a reduced-price access to Reef from the homework website. If you bought the textbook with the bundled Sapling-website access at the bookstore, the \$5 Reef fee is the only other required cost that I anticipate for the course. However you will need to have a reliable computer and internet access since not just the lectures but the exams will be online, as you probably already encountered last fall.

It would be a good idea to log into eCampus sometime before classes start, and try to register for the Sapling website, which also has the link for the \$5 Reef-app registration. We will have a Sapling pre-lecture due Thursday, and Reef quizzes starting Tuesday – on Tuesday they will be non-graded, but that will allow you to check your connection on the Reef app before the Thursday class when I will have regular polls. Our Reef course identifier is Phys207-Ross. You can find that course by searching tamu courses from within the Reef app, and if you have multiple Reef courses, you need to remember to set the app for this course during the lectures. Also this website has detailed instruction on signing up for Reef:  
<http://mechanics.physics.tamu.edu/org/FAQ-docs/student-instructions-signup4reef.pdf>.

If you have questions about the course and need to discuss with me beforehand let me know, I'll be happy to answer any emails and we could set up a zoom meeting if needed. Otherwise I am looking forward to meeting everyone (virtually) on Tuesday.

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Jan. 18, Regarding zoom links:

These are recurring meetings, for January and February. I will set up new zoom meetings in March, or as needed in case we have any changes in schedule or rules about online meetings, watch for announcements in class. Other than that, you can use the same links for the first several weeks.

The lecture zoom meeting start at 7:30 to allow time for setup; that is because the zoom app only allows 30-minute increments, however I will log in 5 or 10 minutes ahead of the 8AM class time. For the case of office hours there is a zoom waiting room, so you will need to wait a few moments for me to admit you--this allows you or others to discuss confidential grades issues and not be interrupted. For questions about problem solving I will admit everyone at once.

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Textbook options:

There is another option for the textbook I wanted to point out: If you go to our eCampus course page and click on the Student Registration - Start Here link, the \$42 fee required there for website access includes access to the e-book version of the textbook. It doesn't include a downloadable text, so you could potentially run into troubles in case of internet outages etc, however that might be a reasonable option. The \$87 textbook package at the bookstore gets you in addition the paperback hard-copy of the textbook. In either case you would still need to pay the \$5.99 Reef access fee, but that is all the required materials you will need.