Physics 7231 Spring 2017
Electricity and Magnetism

Instructor: I. Vekhter         Phone: 578-0598
Office: Nicholson 210E                             Office Hours: TTh 1:30-2:30pm
Email: vekhter@lsu.edu or by appointment

Lecture time: TTh 10:30AM – 11:50AM, Nicholson 106

Text: Modern Electrodynamics by Andrew Zangwill

Course website: http://www.phys.lsu.edu/faculty/vekhter/Teaching.html will be operational by the second weekend of the semester.

This is a two-semester course that aims to cover most of your textbook. A few sections will be omitted as stated in class and on the website, but otherwise students are responsible for learning all the material in the book whether it is covered in the classroom or not. Quite generally, classes will be used to briefly review the material and treat examples, so it will help if you read ahead. I will aim to cover the first ~13 chapters of the textbook this semester. Other books, such as “Classical Electrodynamics” by Jackson, and Griffiths’ “Introduction to Electrodynamics”, may be useful but are not essential.

Homework: Homework will be assigned (almost) each week. It will be due on Thursdays in class. Late homework will not be accepted, but, accounting for the unexpected, two lowest scores will be dropped when computing the course average.

I assume we will have a grader for the class, so, please, remember that homework solutions are a communication between the student and grader that should include appropriate text and equations in enough detail so that the logic behind the solutions is clear. If the grader does not understand the solution, points will be taken off. Students are encouraged to make copies or to digitize their homework solutions so that they have these available to them for comparison purposes and for use as a study guide for exams.

Office hours: If you do not understand part of the material or experience difficulty in working the problems assigned seek help!!!! I will be available during office hours or by appointment for any help you may need with the course material, problem solving, or other matters. Note that during the office hours I will only answer questions, but not give answers to homework problems, and help will only be offered on problems that have been attempted prior to the meeting.

Exams and grading: Both midterm and the final exam will be 24-hour take-home tests. You are required to work on these exams on your own, without anyone’s help or participation. If I notice similarity between solutions from two or more students, I reserve the right to require an additional oral exam in my office at the board for the students whose work I find suspicious. The grade will be based 50% on homework, 20% on the midterm, and 30% on the final.