Welcome to PHYS 110 – "Liberal Arts Physics"!

- Course structure:
  - "Clickers"
  - Midterm exams
  - Final paper
- Resources
- Reading

Basic structure

- Lectures ~ 4 times a week:
  - From basic concepts to advanced material
  - Will include demos, videos, possibly guest lectures
- Your participation/attendance will be checked and graded using "clicker" questions
- Two in-class midterm exams (dates TBD)
- Final paper on a physics-related topic
- Office hours twice a week (TBD)
- Supplementary reading: watch the website for more

Clickers

- We will use the HITT RF remotes
- Available from the bookstore (or online)
- ***You are responsible*** for your own remote! There will be a two-week trial period for you to test them and familiarize yourself with their function. Also, register.
- There will be a total of about 30 clicker questions. Your participation and correctness of your answers will significantly contribute to your grade.

Midterm exams

- Multiple choice, based on material from lectures up to the exam date.
- ~30 questions, 50 minutes.
- You may bring a one-sided sheet of notes. Calculators may be used (but will not be necessary)
- ***You will have to bring your own purple "scantron" sheets.***

Final paper

- You own, original paper on a subject related to (modern) physics
- 2800 word (approximately 5 pages using 11 pt. Times New Roman single-spaced font), preferably MS Word (or PFD) document
- Include figures, references…
- Due Friday, March 2 (which is 1 week before the end of the quarter)
- More on the paper later…

Resources

- Website: lectures will be posted there on regular basis
- Twitter and/or Facebook: for announcements, comments, feedback… (maybe)
- Office hours: TBD, but most likely in the afternoon

Reading

- There is no required textbook, but it is highly recommended that you read on your own some of these popular science books:
  - Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinaw, "A Briefer History Of Time", ISBN: 9780553385465, paperback, Bantam Books, 2008
    (NOTE: do not confuse with Hawking's earlier book, "A Brief History of Time")
  - Alan P. Lightman, "Great Ideas in Physics"
    ISBN: 9780071357388, paperback, McGraw-Hill, 2000.
  - Brian Greene, "Fabric of the Cosmos"
    ISBN: 9780375727207, paperback, Vintage, 2005
  - Lawrence M. Krauss, "Fear Of Physics", ISBN: 9780465002184, Paperback, Basic Books, 2007

Grading policy

- Exams: 20%
  - Only your best (of 2) exam score will be used
- Pop quiz scores: 40%
  - Only your best ~20 grades will be used.
- Term paper: 40% of your grade. Details TBA in class.
- Remember: since we will drop your lowest exam score and quiz scores, missing one will not count against you, so there will be NO makeup exams or quizzes!