Physics 406: Introduction to General Relativity and Cosmology

Spring, 2013

Instructor: Prof. Daniel Chung (danielchung@wisc.edu, 608-265-3133, 5207 Chamberlin)

Textbook: General Relativity: An Introduction for Physicists by Hobson, Efstathiou, and Lasenby

Lectures: 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Mo and We at Chamberlin 2104

Credits 1= one specified homework problem per problemset; 2= track 1 homework; 3= track 1 homework and exam; 4= track 2 homework and exam.

Course Website: http://uw.physics.wisc.edu/~dchung/phys406/phys406.html

Office hours: By appointment at 5207 Chamberlin (see above for contact info) or you can drop by my office and see if I am free

Regular exam dates: Feb 27 (in class), Apr 10 (in class)

Final exam: May 16, 2013 (12:25 PM - 2:25 PM)

Grading:

credit dependent:
  1: one homework problem per problemset (100%): $A = 3.4-4$ ; $AB = 3.2-3.3$ ; $B = 2.5-3.1$ ; $BC = 2.3-2.4$ ; $C = 1.6 - 2.2$ ; $D = 1.1-1.5$ ; $F = 0 - 0.9$
  2: track 1 homework (100%): curve combined with track 3 + 4 people homework scores
  3+4: better of 2 midterms (10 %) + final (20 %) + homework (70%): curve

• Credit levels 3+4 will have lowest grade of BC as long as all the required work is attempted with significant effort (e.g. no “1” score or lower on a problem on the homework etc. – see below). At least 50% of credit levels 3+4 will receive an A.

• Homework grading on each problem will be based on 4=perfect; 3=approximately right; 2= more wrong than right; 1= subjectively judged to be of poor effort; 0=nothing turned in.

• Working together on the homework is allowed but my subjective judgment of a homework solution being mindlessly copied will incur extra penalty.