Physics 501Graduate Classical MechanicsProf. Paul M. GoldbartHandout 2https://mycourses.stonybrook.edu/d21/homePhysics & Astronomy26 August 2024COURSE SYLLABUSStony Brook University

Here is the syllabus for Physics 501: *Classical Mechanics*. At this stage, the details of the course content and order are probable rather than certain, as we may find ourselves wishing to adjust the focus as we proceed.

Here, too, is the grading policy for the course as well as the suite of Official Stony Brook University *Syllabus Statements*.

1. Equations of motion in classical mechanics

- Action principles and Lagrangian mechanics
- Constraints
- Hamiltonian mechanics
- Newtonian mechanics

2. Conservations laws; symmetries as their origins

- Energy
- Momentum
- Angular momentum
- Fields and Noether's theorem

3. Integrating equations of motion

- Motion in one dimension
- Motion in a central field
- Keplerian motion
- Motion of charged particles in electric and magnetic fields

4. Collisions between particles

• Disintegration, collisions, and scattering

5. Small oscillations

- Free and driven oscillations
- Normal modes; the vibrations of molecules
- Damped oscillations
- Parametric resonance and nonlinear oscillations
- The Stephenson-Kapitza pendulum
- The ponderomotive force

6. Motions of rigid bodies; accelerating frames of reference

- Angular velocity, the inertia tensor, and angular momentum
- Equations of motion for rigid bodies
- Euler's equations and spinning tops
- Rigid bodies in contact
- Extended Galilean transformations, the Coriolis force, and Foucault's pendulum

7. The canonical equations

- Hamilton's equations
- Poisson's brackets
- Canonical transformations and canonical perturbation theory
- The Hamilton-Jacobi equation and connections with wave mechanics
- Action-angle variables and adiabatic invariants
- Hannay's angle
- Hamiltonian optics

8. Basic ideas from the theory of continuous systems

- Strings, rods, and membranes
- Elastic media, including superfluids, crystals, and liquid crystals
- Fluids, waves in and on fluids, and fluid vorticity
- Electromagnetic and other fields, Noether's theorem, and the canonical stress tensor

9. Nonlinear dynamics and deterministic chaos

- Poincaré maps
- The Kolmogorov-Arnold-Moser (or KAM) theorem

Grading Policy for the Course: In determining final grades, the weights given to the components of a student's work will approximately be: 65% for homework and 35% for the two examinations (taken together). Please note that these figures are liable to adjustment.

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