Bachelor in Physics
(Academic Year 2025-26)

Physics Fundamentals I	Code	800490	Year	1st	Sem.	1st
Module	Basic Core	**Topic**	Physics	**Character**	Obligatory	

	Total	Theory	Exercises
ECTS Credits	9	4.5	4.5
Semester hours	84	39	45

Learning Objectives (according to the Degree's Verification Document)

- To handle fundamental concepts in Physics such as: particle, field, system of reference, energy, momentum, conservation laws, macroscopic and microscopic points of view.
- To get knowledge and understanding of fundamental physical phenomena, including those related to classical mechanics and thermodynamics.
- To begin to formulate and solve simple problems in Physics, identifying the relevant physical phenomena involved and carrying out order estimates and order-of-magnitude calculations.
- To get an overview of the state of the art in Physics.

Brief description of contents

Newtonian mechanics, introduction to the special theory of relativity, ideal fluids, thermodynamics.

Prerequisites

Physics and mathematics knowledge acquired in "Bachillerato".

Coordinator	Carlos Díaz - Guerra Viejo		Dept.	FM
	Room	02.111.0	e-mail	cdiazgue@ucm.es

Theory/Exercises – Schedule and Teaching Staff

Group	Lecture Room	Day	Time	Professor	Period/ Dates	Hours	T/E	Dept.
B	7	Tu, Th, Fr	11:00 – 13:00	Carlos Díaz-Guerra Viejo	Complete semester	84	T/E	FM

T: Theory, E: Exercises

Office hours

Group	Professor	Schedule	E-mail	Location
B	Carlos Díaz-Guerra Viejo	L, M: 14.30-16.00 +3h On line	*cdiazgue@ucm.es*	02.111.0

Syllabus

1. Introduction.
Magnitudes and units of measurement. Scalar and vector quantities. Introduction to vector calculus. Coordinate systems.

2. Kinematics.
Speed and acceleration. Acceleration components. Relative translation movement: Galilean transformations.

3. Dynamics.
Newton´s laws: inertial mass. Linear momentum and its conservation. Principle of relativity. Inertial forces. Torque. Angular momentum. Central forces.

4. Work and Energy.
Kinetic energy. Potential energy. Gradient. Conservative forces. Potential energy curves. Conservative and dissipative forces. Energy dissipation.

5. Motion of a system of particles. Rigid objects.
Center of mass of a system of particles Linear momentum and angular momentum. Orbital angular momentum. Spin. Kinetic energy of a system of particles and its conservation. Moment of inertia. Rotational motion of a rigid object. Binding energy of a system of particles.

6. Relativity.
The Michelson–Morley experiment. Lorentz´s transformation. Time dilation. Lorentz contraction. Simultaneity. Velocity transformation equations. Momentum. Relativistic energy.

7. Oscillatory Motion. Kinematics of a harmonic oscillator.
Kinematics of a harmonic oscillatory movement. Force and energy. The simple pendulum. Superposition of harmonic movements. Damped oscillations.

8. Universal Gravitation.
Kepler´s laws. Newton's law of universal gravitation. Gravitational potential energy. The gravitational field: field lines, flux, Gauss´s theorem. Gravitational potential. Gravitational field of a spherical body.

9. Fluids.
Hydrostatics. Pressure in a fluid. Pascal´s principle. Archimedes´s principle. Fluid Dynamics. Bernouilli´s equation. Viscosity.

10. Thermodynamics.
Heat and temperature: Temperature and thermal equilibrium. Temperature scales. Equation of state for an ideal gas. Kinetic theory of gases. Heat and specific heat. Mechanical work. *First law*: thermodynamic processes. Internal energy of an ideal gas. Adiabatic processes for an ideal gas. Reversible and irreversible processes. *Second Law*: cyclic transformations. The second law of Thermodynamics. Entropy.

Bibliography

Basic

- M. Alonso and E. J. Finn, *Physics* (Pearson Education) [*Física* (Addison-Wesley Iberoamericana, 1995].
- Sears, Zemansky, Young and Freedman, *University Physics with Modern Physics, 13th Edition,* Pearson [*Física Universitaria* (12ª Ed., Pearson Educación, México 2009].
- R. A. Serway and J.W Jewett, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* (Brooks/Cole, 9th Ed. (2014). [*Física*, 1er vol., 4ª Ed. (McGraw-Hill, Madrid, 2001)].
- P. A. Tipler and G. Mosca, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics*(Freeman, 6th Ed. (2007). [*Física para la ciencia y la tecnología*, 1er vol., 6ª Ed. (Reverté, Barcelona, 2010)].

Complementary

- Feynman R.P., Leighton R.B. & Sands M., *Physics,* (Addison Wesley, 1987).
- F.A. González, *La física en problemas,* (Tébar, 2000).
- M. Lozano Leyva, *De Arquímedes a Einstein: los diez experimentos más bellos de la física*, (Debate, 2005).
- J.I. Mengual, M.P. Godino y M. Khayet, *Cuestiones y problemas de fundamentos de física*, (Ariel, Barcelona, 2004).

Online Resources

UCM Virtual Campus

Other resources:

- Catalogue of experiments for General Physics. http://www.ucm.es/centros/webs/oscar
- Interactive Physics Course, by Ángel Franco García. http://www.sc.ehu.es/sbweb/fisica_/
- MIT open course http:/ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Physics/index.htm
- Caltech videos "The mechanical universe" http://www.acienciasgalilei.com/videos/video0.htm

Methodology

Teaching activities:

- Theory lessons. Main concepts will be explained and will be illustrated with examples and practical applications. (3 h/week).
- Practical lessons: exercises, case studies and other activities. (3 h/week).

Both blackboard and computer-aided classroom presentations will be used for theory lessons. Occasionally, theory lessons will be complemented with computer simulations or virtual exercises.

Students will be provided in due time and through the Virtual Campus with the list of exercises and problems that will be solved during the practical lessons.

Continuous assessment will be partially based on out-of-class works and exercises.

Evaluation Criteria

Exams	**Weight:**	75%

A midterm and a final exam, both of the same type, will be evaluated to obtain the so- called N_{Final} mark. Such mark is the best score of the following options:

$$N_{Final} = 0.3N_{Ex\_Parc} + 0.7N_{Ex\_Final}$$

$$N_{Final} = N_{Ex\_Final}$$

where N_{Ex_Parc} is the mark obtained in the midterm exam and y N_{Ex_Final} is that obtained in the final exam (both over 10).

To pass the subject, (N_{Ex_Final}) must be ≥ 4.

Exams will be divided in two parts: short questions (theoretical or practical) and problems.

The same exam will be taken by all the students, irrespective of their group.

Other Activities	**Weight:**	25%

Continuous assessment activities may include:

- Problems and exercises to be solved in group or individually.
- Short exams or tests (classroom)
- Online tests or questionnaires (Virtual Campus)

Final Mark

The final mark is the best score of the options as follows:

$$C_{Final} = 0.75\ N_{Final} + 0.25 N_{OtherActiv}. \quad or \quad C_{Final} = N_{Final}.$$

where $N_{OtherActiv}$ is the mark corresponds to *Other Activities* score and N_{Final} to the exam score.

The final mark in July will be obtained following exactly the same assessment procedure.