

General Physics (I) – Spring, 2021

Lecturer: Prof. Kuo-An Wu (吳國安教授)

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What this course is about :

The General Physics (I) focuses on **mechanical systems** and **thermodynamics** which have been developed over hundreds of years since Isaac Newton. In this course, we will review **Newton's laws of mechanics** and introduce basic concepts of **vector calculus** in the meantime. Not only will the equations of motion be introduced, but also the **concepts of mechanical energy** will be discussed. In addition, we will extend our understandings of the single particle motion to study the motion of many-particle systems such as **rotation of rigid bodies**. In analogy to linear motion, we will introduce moment of inertia and angular momentum of a rigid body, and related interesting applications will be discussed. With the fundamental understandings of the mechanical laws, we will discuss daily life physics phenomena such as **oscillations, waves**, etc. in details. Furthermore, we will start from microscopic view of a many-particle system to construct macroscopic quantities of a system and study how the system responds to environmental changes (That is the concept of work, heat and the laws of **thermodynamics**). We will also introduce the theory of **special relativity**, and **wave optics** if time permits.

Note that this class is offered in English.

Time : Every T12F12

Venue : MXIC 243 (旺宏館 243)

Textbook : Lecture notes

Reference :

1. The Feynman Lectures on Physics, <http://www.feynmanlectures.caltech.edu/>

Office Hours : Every Wednesday morning from 10:30 – 12:00 (in My office) °

Recitation class : To be determined.

Grading Policy : Class discussion and homework (25%), two midterm exams (25% each), final exam (25%).

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