

PHY231 – Spring 2011

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Extra credit project: participate in learning group

Summary: 1% extra credit can be earned by actively participating in a small study group (3-4 students) helping other students. Preparing for and participation in one group meeting per week throughout the semester (in every week where homework is due) is required.

The most important points again:

- **The group must meet in the Physics Learning Center at the scheduled time**
- You must come prepared
- Upon arrival the group makes contact with the PHY231 TA and receives a group form.
- The group follows the instructions on the form
- Once the group is done, and has filled out the form, the form has to be returned to the TA.
- You must meet in every week where homework is due. Meeting in exam weeks is optional.
- If you miss more than 2 meetings you drop out of the project. Groups with less than 3 members will be regrouped.

This is how it works:

- At the start of a new homework each group member will be assigned to a specific homework problem. So some of the homework problems will have an assigned group member, and others won't.
- You become an expert on your assigned weekly problem prior to the group meeting. Ideally this would mean you solve the problem and understand it well enough to explain it to others. If in exceptional cases this cannot be achieved you must at least be well prepared.
- You prepare for the meeting by making a sincere effort at solving the ENTIRE homework set.
- The meeting takes place in the BPS Physics Learning Center at the scheduled time.
- Upon arrival you get a group form from the TA.
- Follow the instructions on the group form. Participate in the group discussion and fulfill the assigned role. The group will discuss problems in the homework, help each other when stuck, and discuss what was difficult and what was easy in the course material during the past week.
- You serve as the primary group resource for your assigned problem. This means you answer questions and explain if necessary how to do the problem. You should not do

the problem for others. You should also contribute to discussions about the other problems.

- Complete the group form and hand it to the TA

Rules:

- You can miss up to 2 meetings and still receive the extra credit, though this makes it more difficult for the group.
- If you miss more than 2 meetings without a valid excuse you will be removed from the group and the project. A group that has less than 3 members will be merged with other groups.
- There is no possibility to makeup a missed meeting for whatever reason.
- You must have worked on the entire homework set prior to the meeting and made a sincere effort at solving all the problems. The purpose of the group is not to have others do the homework for you, but to get help when you are stuck and to discuss the difficult concepts of the course. It might also be useful to exchange ideas about how to study or how to prepare the equation sheet.
- Each group member must be sufficiently well prepared to contribute to the group. Groups should report members that do not contribute or are not prepared. You will not receive the extra credit if you come to the meetings unprepared.
- If you cannot agree on a time to meet you cannot earn the extra credit. You might request being assigned to a different group but we cannot guarantee that a sufficiently large pool of dissolved groups is available to regroup you.