

Physics 5714: Methods of theoretical physics

Fall 2019

Instructor	Eric Sharpe
Office/Phone	Robeson 211-A, 231-7890
Email	ersharpe@vt.edu
Course web page	http://www1.phys.vt.edu/~ersharpe/5714/index.html
Office hours	TBA, and by appointment
Texts	(1) <i>Mathematical Methods for Physicists</i> , seventh edition (2012), by G. Arfken, H. Weber, F. Harris (2) Hefferon's <i>Linear Algebra</i> , available at http://joshua.smcvt.edu/linearalgebra/ (It's several hundred pages – please do NOT try to print all of it.) (3) George Cain, <i>Complex analysis</i> , available at http://people.math.gatech.edu/cain/winter99/complex.html (As with the other online textbook, please do NOT try to print all of it.)
Class meets	MW 4 pm - 5:15 pm in Robeson 116

Homework: Homework will be assigned once every week. Assignments will be listed on the course web page, in addition to being given in class. Students may work together on the problem assignments, but each must turn in solutions written entirely by himself or herself.

Tests and exams: There will be 2 tests and a final exam.

Grading: Each test counts 100 points, the final exam counts 200 points, and your cumulative homework score is scaled to a maximum of 100 points. Your final grade is based on the total number of points accumulated out of 500. Remember that doing homework (by the assigned deadlines) is by far the best way to prepare for tests.

Deadlines: The deadline to drop a class without penalty is October 7. Before dropping, consult with your temporary advisor – the graduate committee will meet before the drop deadline to make recommendations for students.

Final exam: Will be held on Tuesday Dec 17, from 7:45 - 9:45 am (the 16M slot). For the schedule see

https://banweb.banner.vt.edu/ssb/prod/hzskeexam.P_DispenExamInfo

As a general rule of thumb, it is far, far easier to keep up than to catch up. If you have questions about the material that are not answered during class, by all means, feel free to see me. You may have also heard this advice in undergraduate classes, but in grad school, where classes go much faster and cover more, this advice goes double.