Physics 5714: Methods of theoretical physics  
Fall 2018

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  
(2) Hefferon’s Linear Algebra, available at http://joshua.smcvt.edu/linearalgebra/  
(It’s several hundred pages – please do NOT try to print all of it.)  
(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 1. 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 Friday Dec 7, from 1:05 - 3:05 pm (the 16M slot). For the schedule see https://banweb.banner.vt.edu/ssb/prod/hzskeexam.P_DispExamInfo

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.