

---

# Physics Seminar (Phys 145)

## Syllabus

Taner Edis

Truman Week 2010

Truman Week is intended to help you make the transition to college, to give you an idea of what is to come, and get you think about what this stage of your education is supposed to be about. It is also a good opportunity to meet some of your fellow physics and pre-engineering majors. Physics and engineering are notoriously *difficult* fields of study. You will have to do a lot more studying than what you have been accustomed to in high school. It will help to know others in the same situation, and to have a group of friends you can discuss physics course material with.

- **Sunday, August 23, 16:30–17:20:** Introductions. I will also hand out some reading you should do before Monday morning. You will have to come up with one question inspired by your reading: write it on a small piece of paper, put your name on it, and bring it to class on Monday.
- **Monday, August 24, 9:00–10:15 and 15:30–16:20:** Based on your reading, we will discuss what your expectations of a liberal arts education and a physics or engineering major are. We will also discuss what your expectations should be. Bring your paper with a question on it; I will be using these to get the discussion going. In the afternoon hour, we will also have some visitors with useful information for you.
- **Tuesday, August 25, 9:00–12:00:** Sample lecture, on thermal physics. We will then solve some problems and discuss what you should be doing to be successful in physics and mathematics courses. You will have a small homework assignment due the next day.

- 
- **Wednesday, August 26, 9:00–12:00:** We will join the other sections of PHYS 145 at the Thousand Hills Lake. We will need transportation, so bring your car. Driving directions: <http://tinyurl.com/2djw5ro>. If the weather is not suitable, we will remain on campus and do a sample lab.

The best way to reach me is **e-mail**, [edis@truman.edu](mailto:edis@truman.edu). You can try calling my office at 785–4583, but I don't check my messages often.