

Statics (Phys 387) Syllabus

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1 How to Find Me

The best way to reach me is **e-mail**. Otherwise, you can try calling my office at 785-4583, or faxing me at 785-7604. Until 21:00, you can also try me at home, 665-0491.

I will have office hours from 10:30 to 11:00 and from 13:00 to 13:30 every Tuesday and Thursday, and from 10:30 to 11:20 and 14:30 to 15:20 Wednesdays. Of course, there's a good chance I will be around my office at other times as well. To see what hours I am most likely to be available, check my **typical schedule** (www2.truman.edu/~edis/courses/schedule.html).

2 Course Description

PHYS 387 is a survey of the basic statics concepts and applications engineers need to work with, or will encounter in the course of their studies. It requires a solid background in physics, derived from the introductory "Physics with Calculus" sequence. It also requires proficiency in calculus. Anything beyond is of course helpful, but I will not assume anything beyond what you should have picked up in your introductory physics and math courses.

As with most physics and engineering courses, Statics involves a fair amount of homework and individual study of the textbook. You learn statics by solving challenging problems, more than by a cursory reading of the book or convincing yourself that you understand the lectures.

3 Schedule

Class: Tuesday and Thursday 15:00–16:20, MG 1099.
Wednesday 13:30–14:20, MG 3000.

Final Exam: Thursday December 14, 11:30–1:20, MG 1099.

4 Course materials

The textbook: R.C. Hibbeler, *Statics*, 11th edition.

I will follow the text pretty closely. Whether we can cover the last couple of chapters will depend on you. If it looks like you're handling the material with few difficulties, we'll get there; if I decide you need more emphasis on the basics, we will have a slower pace.

5 Homework and Recitations

Homework is *important*. It will determine 30% of your final grade.

I will announce in class when each homework set will be due. See the table for the list of homework and recitation problems.

Chapter	Homework	Recitation
3.	6, 21, 33, 64, 74	9, 31, 58, 75
4.	17, 39, 56, 95, 121, 138, 156	15, 45, 65, 137
5.	23, 34, 40, 62, 66, 84, 92	19, 28, 53, 81
6.	10, 18, 44, 60, 68, 79, 128	11, 13, 37, 98
7.	9, 35, 58, 59, 79	5, 30, 51
8.	18, 48, 68, 73, 101, 135	11, 37, 63, 99
9.	11, 42, 48, 100, 109, 118, 126	15, 81, 87, 111
10.	19, 46, 67, 77, 80, 101	11, 34, 71, 93

I do not mind you discussing the homework with one another as well as with me. I am not, in fact, averse to giving out hints if you tell me you're stuck; the purpose of homework is not to make your lives miserable.

However, I expect you to turn in the results of your own efforts—not group solutions, and certainly not solutions directly borrowed from someone else. If I find homeworks too similar to each other, especially if they make the same mistakes, you will have some explaining to do.

I care about maintaining academic integrity, and I will apply all relevant Truman policies. See the [Student Conduct Code](#).

I will distribute answers to homework sets as I collect your work. I *do not* accept late homework; after all, I will have already given the answers.

Recitation problems will be done by students in recitation sessions. I won't hold recitations only on Wednesdays; I'll sometimes use lecture times for recitation and recitation for lectures. I'll announce recitation times together with when homeworks are due; typically recitation will be a couple of days before homework is due. I won't grade how you do on recitation problems, and you don't have to get them right. They are opportunities for me to see how you work on a problem and help you out during the process.

6 Exams

There will be two midterms, both determining 20% of your final grade. The final is worth 30%.

You will be allowed to consult your textbook and notes during all exams.

7 Final grades

As with every other aspect of the course, I intend to be flexible. If you get less than 50% in your overall grade, you will certainly fail, and 90% or better will certainly be an A, but otherwise, I don't want to declare rigid boundaries such as “65%–77% is a C” and so forth.

If you want to know how you are doing, or what sort of performance on the final you would need for an A, or have similar grade-related concerns, just stop by my office and ask. I should be able to give you a fair estimate of where you stand.

8 Returned Work

I will return graded work to you during class, or you can come by my office and ask for it. Keep all your work in one place for reference, and for possible inclusion in your University Portfolio. I may discard any material that has not been picked up after a week from when they were first made available to you.

9 Make-Ups

It is hard to arrange for appropriate make-ups for exams or homeworks in a course like this. So I expect you will do everything possible to turn your work in on time, and so avoid later hassle for both me and yourself.

Nevertheless, you may find you have missed something because of a legitimate excuse like being badly sick or having a death in your family. In this case, come and speak with me, and I will decide, on a case-by-case basis, how to make up what you have missed. I will typically assign you some appropriate extra work, have you take a make-up exam in my office, or something similar.