

Physics 4311: Thermal Physics – Spring Semester 2023

- Instructor:** Thomas Vojta
Office: 103 Physics, phone: 341-4793, email: vojtat@mst.edu
- Class time:** 11:00am – 12:15pm Tuesday, Thursday
Room 127 Physics
- Office hours:** The official office hours are Friday 1:30pm – 3pm, but you can drop in any time, or email me for an appointment.
- Course web page:** http://www.mst.edu/~vojtat/class_4311/class_4311.html
- Prerequisites:** Physics 2305 or Physics 2111
- Textbook:** Blundell + Blundell, *Concepts in Thermal Physics*, Oxford University Press, 2010
- Further reading:** Reif, *Fundamentals of Statistical and Thermal Physics*
Schroeder, *An Introduction to Thermal Physics*
- Homework:** Homework assignments will be given in class on Tuesday and also posted on the WWW. Assignments are due the following Tuesday as pdf uploads in Canvas. Each assignment will be worth 40 points, and your 10 highest scores will count towards the grade.
- Discussions among colleagues is allowed and encouraged. However, the solutions you hand in should represent your effort and thinking and not that of a group. You should document the intermediate steps of your solution (partial credit will be given) and list any reference material which you directly use.
- Project:** In addition to the homework you will work on one larger project in the second half of the semester. You will be able to choose from several topics (computer simulations, in-class talks). The project will be worth 100 points.
- Tests:** There will be two midsemester tests counting 150 points each and a comprehensive final exam counting 200 points. The midsemester tests will be given on Tuesday, Feb 28 and on Tuesday, April 11 during class time. The final exam will be on Monday, May 8, 2023 from 3:00 to 5:00pm.
- Grade:** Course grade will be based on the total number of points earned on the homework, test and exam, expressed as a percentage of the total number of points available (1000). The relation between performance and grade will be the standard one: $A \geq 90\% > B \geq 80\% > C \geq 70\%$. The boundaries between the grades may be revised downwards (i.e., to the students benefit) depending upon the judgement of the instructor, but will not be revised upwards.
- Accessibility and Accommodations:** It is the university's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please contact Student Disability Services at (573) 341-6655, sdsmst@mst.edu, visit <http://dss.mst.edu/> for information, or go to mineraccess.mst.edu to initiate the accommodation process.

Academic Dishonesty: You should behave as responsible scholars and scientists. Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, or sabotage is unethical and unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. For more detail, see the Student Academic Regulations which are available on the web at <http://registrar.mst.edu/academicregs/index.html>.

Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Title IX: Missouri S&T is committed to the safety and well-being of our campus community, and to creating an environment free from discrimination and harassment.

The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. As used in this policy, the word “sex” is also inclusive of the term “gender.”

Additionally, US Federal Law Title IX states that no member of the university community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Sexual harassment violations of this law include quid pro quo, hostile environment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. The U.S. Department of Education has stated the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Students who are experiencing pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, including the birthing parent and non-birthing parent, have rights protected under Title IX. Students should contact the Office of Equity and Title IX to learn more about their rights and pregnancy-related assistance / accommodations provided by the University to ensure equitable access to University educational programs and activities.

In accordance with the University of Missouri’s Collected Rules and Regulations, all faculty and staff are required to report any information concerning discrimination disclosed through communication including, but not limited to, direct conversation, email, social media, classroom papers and homework exercises to the Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator.

Office of Equity and Title IX Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Paul Hirtz Phone: (573) 341-7734 Location: 900 Innovation Drive, Suite 500 E-mail: equity@mst.edu

Emergency exits: Please familiarize yourself with the classroom emergency exits shown on the egress maps posted on-line at: <http://designconstruction.mst.edu/floorplan/>.

Complaints: It is hoped that any problems can be resolved through discussions between student and instructor. If there are any complaints that cannot be resolved you may contact Dr. Shannon Fogg, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (sfogg@mst.edu).