PHY138Y1Y: Physics for the Life Sciences I

“Physics is the universe’s operating system.”

-- Steven R. Garman

People of PHY138Y

- Course coordinator
- Lecturers
- Laboratory coordinator
- Laboratory and Demonstration Technologists
- About 60 Teaching Assistants for Tutorials and Laboratories

2 Parts of PHY138Y

- “Theoretical Physics”
  - Lectures and Tutorials
  - Coordinator: Dr. Pierre Savaria
- “Experimental Physics”
  - The Laboratory
  - Coordinator: Dr. Ruxandra Serbanescu

Dr. David Harrison

- PhD – U. of T. – Elementary Particle Physics
- Professional Interests:
  - Foundations of Physics
  - How people learn
  - Effective use of computers in teaching

About Learning Physics 1

There are only a few powerful concepts.

- Once you know the concepts, their application to numerical problems is easy!
- Memorising formulas is not a good learning strategy.

In PHY138, tests and exams will tend to emphasise concepts.

About Learning Physics 2

Each concept builds on previous ones.

Assimilating any powerful concept takes time.

- Keep up with your studies.
- The “last minute cram” before a test or exam is unlikely to help.
Doing Well at University

- Time Management is very important.
- Take responsibility for yourself.
- Consider joining or forming a study group.
- When problems or questions arise, contact the prof, TA, etc.
  - Ignored problems do not go away, they just get worse!

For Wednesday's Class:

- Read the following sections of Chapter 1 of the textbook
  - 1.1 – 1.5
  - 1.7 – 1.8