PHY138Y1Y: Physics for the Life Sciences I

“Physics is the universe’s operating system.”

-- Steven R. Garman

People of PHY138Y

- Course coordinator: Dr. Pierre Savaria
- Lecturers
- Laboratory and Demonstration Technologists
- 1st Year Assistant Coordinator
- About 50 Teaching Assistants for Tutorials and Laboratories
- Laboratory coordinator

2 Parts of PHY138Y

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

Dr. David Harrison

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

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!

About Learning Physics 1

There are only a few powerful concepts.

- Once you understand 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.

Imagine you are taking a course on Shakespeare:

☐ The course is discussing Hamlet.
☐ You have not read the play.
☐ The professor asks:
  “But why didn’t Hamlet obey the ghosts, and thus save seven of the eight lives?”

Bring:

☐ The colored cardboard rectangles to every class.
☐ Student Workbook to every tutorial.

Assignments:

☐ By Wednesday’s class: Read Chapter 1 of the textbook.
☐ Establish your MasteringPhysics (MP) account now.
☐ By Friday at 5PM: Finish “Pre-Course Assessment Quiz” on MP.
☐ By Monday Sept. 19 at 10AM: Finish “Pre-Class Quiz Chapts 2-4” on MP.