

PHY108-A SYLLABUS – Spring semester, 2026.

Week	Room	Date	Experiments
1	100	Jan 26 to Jan 30	The Millikan-Fletcher Experiment
2	101	Feb 02 to Feb 06	Equipotential and Electric Fields
3	100	Feb 09 to Feb 13	DC Electrical Measurements
4	101	Feb 16 to Feb 20	Force between Two Current Carrying Wires
5	100	Feb 23 to Feb 27	The Oscilloscope and its Use
		Mar 02 to Mar 06	
		Mar 09 to Mar 13	
6	101	Mar 16 to Mar 20	Geometrical Optics
7	100	Mar 23 to Mar 27	Alternating Current Circuits
8	101	Mar 30 to Apr 03	Interference and Diffraction
9	100	Apr 06 to Apr 10	Determination of the Ratio e/m for the Electron
10	101	Apr 13 to Apr 17	Determining the Refractive Index of Air

Important Information

Laboratory Courses

The Department of Physics offers two undergraduate laboratory courses: **PHY106** and **PHY108**. Each course is divided into two groups, **A** and **B**, which alternate the use of laboratories due to capacity constraints. Consequently, the sequence of the ten experiments that make up each course may differ between groups. The specific dates for each experiment, along with the assigned laboratories and the weeks without sessions, are detailed in the *syllabus* of each course.

Laboratory Layout

Each laboratory session accommodates a maximum of 18 students, divided into pairs working at nine identical workstations. The number of sections per course is determined by total enrollment. Details about the experiments and schedules can be found on the *syllabus*, the Undergraduate Physics Labs website, and on the side doors of the laboratory rooms.

Laboratory Procedures

During the first session, students will meet with their assigned instructor, who will provide an overview of the course and explain the lab policies. Students are expected to take notes of their instructor's full name and email address; in case you need to contact him/her during the semester. Before each lab session, students must review the Course Documents and print the final pages, starting with the section labeled "Full Name, Course, and Section." These pages should be completed during the lab and submitted to the instructor at the end of the session for grading. The grades will be uploaded to the university platform, and the graded work will be returned during the following lab session for students' records. Each lab will be graded on a 100-point scale. Final grades will be calculated as the average of all lab scores and will be available on the CaneLink platform from the date indicated in the ACADEMIC CALENDAR.

Laboratory Safety Regulations

For the safety of both students and laboratory equipment, students may only enter the laboratory when the instructor is already present, consuming food or beverages inside the laboratory is strictly always prohibited. If a student needs to eat or drink for health-related reasons, they must request permission from the instructor and step outside the laboratory to do so. Instructors are encouraged to inspect the equipment before each student begins their experiment. For electrical circuits, it is essential to verify proper connections to prevent malfunctions or hazards. Any damage to equipment caused by improper handling or lack of attention will be the student's responsibility. Such incidents may result in a reduction of their grade, and in severe cases, could lead to failing the lab. In accordance with the safety protocols established by the Coral Gables Fire Department, laboratory doors must remain closed throughout the duration of each session. Furthermore, the maximum number of students per laboratory is limited to 18. Exceptions will be made only in justified cases, such as when a student needs to make up a missed lab. In such cases, the instructor of the student must contact the other instructor in advance to avoid exceeding the room's capacity.

Attendance Policy

The laboratory program follows a strict schedule due to the high demand for space and the rotation of different sections. Missing a laboratory session will result in a 10% reduction in the final grade. Missing four or more sessions will lead to automatic failure of the course.

Justified absences include the following:

- *Participation in university-authorized events* (with an official UM letter).
- *Illness* (with a valid medical certificate).
- *Death of a family member* (documented with an obituary or other official proof).

Students with valid justification must contact their instructor as soon as possible to arrange a potential make-up session. If the experiment is no longer available, an Exempt Grade will be assigned, meaning that the missing lab will not be included in the final grade calculation.

In cases where a student has four or more justified absences, a grade of I (Incomplete) will be assigned in CaneLink, and the student will be required to retake the laboratory course in the following semester.

Unjustified absences do not qualify for make-up sessions and will result in the corresponding grade reductions, without exception.

Religious Holy Day Policy

The University of Miami, although a secular institution, is determined to accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. It seeks to reflect its awareness of and sensitivity to religious holy days whenever possible when scheduling University activities. The following provisions are meant to apply equitably to all religious groups and to provide opportunities for all to meet their religious obligations.

1. Except as specifically provided to the contrary, this policy is binding on all students and faculty members in undergraduate programs. Schools offering graduate or professional programs, including undergraduate professional programs, are strongly encouraged to adhere to these policies to the maximum extent practicable.
2. Any student absent from class in observance of a religious holy day shall not be penalized in any way for an examination or assignment missed during the period of absence. Absence in observance of a religious holy day does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments shall be offered a reasonable opportunity to make up the work without penalty if the student previously arranged to be absent. Nothing in this policy shall preclude faculty members from limiting the number of student absences to a reasonable number of absences for any reason. The faculty member has discretion to determine how the make-up

obligation will be fulfilled. A faculty member who penalizes a student contrary to these provisions may have committed unprofessional conduct and thus may be subject to a complaint to the Committee on Professional Conduct under the provisions of Section B4.10 of the Faculty Manual.

3. It is the student's obligation to provide faculty members with notice of the dates they will be absent due to observance of religious holy days, preferably before the beginning of classes but no later than the end of the first three class days. For religious holy days that fall within the first three class days, students must provide faculty members with notice no later than two class days before the absence. Missing a class due to travel plans associated with a particular religious holy day does not constitute an excused absence. Absences due to observance of religious holy days that are not pre-arranged with the relevant faculty member within the first three class days may be considered unexcused, and the faculty member may therefore prevent the student from making up examinations or assignments missed during the period of absence.

4. Faculty members are encouraged to anticipate days when a substantial number of students will be absent for observance of religious holy days and should avoid scheduling examinations and assignment deadlines on those days. Faculty members are expected to reasonably assist students in obtaining class information the student missed during the period of absence in observance of a religious holy day. In that regard, faculty members are urged to allow taping or recording of the class session, with the reproduction limited to the student's personal use, when a student misses a class due to observance of a religious holy day. To assist in identifying religious observance days, faculty members are encouraged to consult the illustrative list provided in the Interfaith Calendar. Faculty members are urged to remind students of their obligation to inform faculty members within the first three class days of any anticipated absence due to observance of religious holy days and should include that information in the syllabus or course requirements document for that course.