

# Department of Physics

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Professors:	Bitar, Khalil M.; *Chamseddine, Ali H.; El Eid, Mounib F.; Klushin, Leonid I.; Sabra, Wafic A.
Associate Professors:	*Isber, Samih T.; *Tabbal, Malek D.; Touma, Jihad R.
Assistant Professor:	Polyakov, Dimitri A.
Visiting Professor:	Mavromatis, Harry
Research Associate:	Christidis, Theodore C.
Lecturers:	<sup>P</sup> Bodakian, Berjouhi H.; <sup>P</sup> Mouawad, Nelly C.; <sup>P</sup> Roumieh, Mohammad A.
Instructor:	Majdalani, Elissar S.
Assistant Instructor:	<sup>P</sup> Ashkar, Rana A.

## Undergraduate Program

The Department of Physics offers courses at the undergraduate level leading to a bachelor's degree in physics.

The program for the physics major includes the following required courses: PHYS 101, PHYS 101L, PHYS 210, PHYS 210L, PHYS 212, PHYS 217, PHYS 220, PHYS 221L, PHYS 222, PHYS 226, PHYS 235, PHYS 236, and PHYS 257L. Moreover, two elective courses must be selected from PHYS 223, PHYS 228/228L, PHYS 231, PHYS 232, PHYS 248, PHYS 249. Also required are the following courses in mathematics: MATH 101, MATH 102, CMPS 200, MATH 201, MATH 202, and MATH 212.

Physics majors must obtain a cumulative average of at least 70 in the physics courses normally taken in the sophomore year (PHYS 210, PHYS 210L, PHYS 212) and a cumulative average of at least 70 in MATH 201 and 202 before they are allowed to proceed to junior level courses. Students who wish to transfer to physics must fulfill the criteria listed above.

No physics major is allowed to register in physics courses numbered 217 and above for a third time. Physics majors whose physics average falls below 70 or whose cumulative average in Math 201 and 202 is below 70 will be placed on departmental probation. If this probation is not removed within two semesters, the student will be dropped from the department.

The Department of Physics offers a **minor** in physics comprised of one of the following sequences:

Sequence 1: PHYS 210, PHYS 210L, PHYS 211 (or PHYS 220), PHYS 212, PHYS 217, PHYS 221L, and PHYS 236

Sequence 2: PHYS 210, PHYS 210L, PHYS 211 (or PHYS 220), PHYS 212, PHYS 217, PHYS 228, and PHYS 228L

PHYS 101, PHYS 101L, PHYS 210, PHYS 210L, PHYS 211, PHYS 211L, and PHYS 212 are introductory courses for students of chemistry, computer science, or engineering.



- PHYS 210      Introductory Physics II      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Fluid statics, fluid dynamics, temperature, heat and first law of thermodynamics, kinetic theory of gases, heat engines, entropy and second law of thermodynamics, general properties of waves, sound waves and resonances, light and optics, interference, diffraction, and polarization. *Pre- or corequisite: MATH 201. Each semester.*
- PHYS 210L      Introductory Physics Laboratory II      0.2; 1 cr.**  
Surface tension, gas thermometer, mechanical equivalent of heat, Boyle's law, adiabatic compression of gases, measurement of gamma for air and fluid gas, standing waves on a stretched string, standing waves in air columns, geometrical optics: law of refraction and prism, mirrors and lenses, interference and diffraction, the spectrometer, and polarization. *Pre- or corequisite: PHYS 210. Each semester.*
- PHYS 211      Electricity and Magnetism      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Electrostatics, current, resistance, Ohm's law, Kirchhoff's laws, RC circuits, magnetostatic theory, Ampere's law, Biot-Savart law, Faraday's law, LR circuit, RLC circuits, and a qualitative discussion of Maxwell's equations. *Pre- or corequisite: MATH 201. Each semester.*
- PHYS 211L      Electricity and Magnetism Laboratory      0.2; 1 cr.**  
Electric fields, capacitance and dielectric constant measurements, construction and calibration of ammeter and a voltmeter, electrical circuits, Wheatstone bridge, potentiometer, Thomson's experiment, measurement of the force between two parallel current-carrying conductors, measurement of magnetic induction fields, basic oscilloscope operations, RL, RC, and RLC circuits. *Pre- or corequisite: PHYS 211. Each semester.*
- PHYS 212      Modern Physics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Special theory of relativity, introductory quantum mechanics, atomic physics, nuclear physics, and introduction to elementary particles. *Students cannot receive credit for both PHYS 212 and CHEM 218.<sup>1</sup> Pre- or corequisite: MATH 201. Each semester.*
- PHYS 217      Mechanics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Kinematics of particles motion, Newtonian formulation of mechanics, integration of Newtonian equations of motion, Lagrangian formulation of mechanics, Hamilton dynamics, central forces, linear oscillations, nonlinear oscillations and chaos, collisions, noninertial systems, coupled oscillations, and motion of rigid bodies. *Prerequisite: MATH 202. Annually.*
- PHYS 220      Electromagnetic Theory      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Electrostatics: electric potential, Gauss' law, Poisson's and Laplace's equations, boundary conditions, electric currents, Faraday's law, Lenz's law, mutual inductance. Maxwell's equations, and propagation of electromagnetic waves. *Prerequisite: MATH 202. Annually.*
- PHYS 221L      Junior Laboratory      0.4; 2 cr.**  
A course of experiments selected from the topics of diffraction, e/m ratio, magnetic field, RL, RC, RLC circuits, ohmic and non-ohmic devices, atomic spectroscopy, Milikan's experiment, Frank-Hertz experiment, speed of sound, gravitational acceleration, Planck's constant, and physical optics. *Prerequisites: Junior standing. Annually.*
- PHYS 222      Computational Physics      0.3; 3 cr.**  
Basics of numerical analysis: quadrature, solutions of algebraic and transcendental equations, methods for solving systems of linear equations, methods for solving differential equation, and scholastic methods. Applications: planetary motion, simple models of stars, nonlinear dynamics and chaos, potentials and fields, waves, random systems, computational fluid dynamics, statistical mechanics (phase transitions, Ising model), molecular dynamics, and quantum mechanics. *Prerequisites: MATH 201, MATH 202, and CMPS 200 (or equivalent). Annually.*

<sup>1</sup> Applies to students entering as of summer 2004.

- PHYS 223      Physical Optics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Wave theory of light, Maxwell's equations, superposition and polarization, interference, interferometers, diffraction, coherence, lasers, and holography. *Annually.*
- PHYS 226      Solid State Physics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Electrons in one-dimensional periodic lattice, vibrations in one-dimensional periodic lattice, geometrical description of crystals, free-electron theory in metals, excitons, plasmons, polarons, lattice dynamics, semi-conductors, magnetic ordering, superconductivity, and electron gas in a magnetic field. *Prerequisites: PHYS 235 and PHYS 236. Annually.*
- PHYS 228      Electronics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
DC linear circuits, capacitors, inductors and transients, periodic waveforms, diodes, power supplies, operational amplifier, logic gates, timers, multiplexers, flip-flops, and counting circuits. *Students may not get credit for this course unless they take PHYS 228L. Annually. Fall semester.*
- PHYS 228L      Electronics Laboratory      0.3; 1 cr.**  
DC measurements, periodic waveforms, power supplies, transients, frequency and period measurements, operational amplifiers, and some digital circuits. *Pre- or corequisite: PHYS 228. Each semester.*
- PHYS 231      Special Topics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of department.*
- PHYS 232      Special Topics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of department.*
- PHYS 235      Statistical Physics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Boltzmann distribution, Gibbs distribution, thermal radiation, heat and work, kinetic theory of gases, entropy and temperature, statistical mechanics of semiconductors, kinetics of chemical reactions, and phase transitions. *Prerequisite: PHYS 210. Annually.*
- PHYS 236      Quantum Mechanics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Fundamental concepts: Bras, Kets, matrix representation of operators, change of basis; quantum dynamics: time evolution of quantum mechanical systems, spin; translational and rotational symmetry: Schroedinger equation in one and three dimensions; spherical symmetric systems: three-dimensional oscillator, hydrogen atom; theory of angular momentum: rotation operator, addition of angular momenta; time-independent perturbation theory, Zeeman effect, Stark effect, spin-orbit coupling, time-dependent perturbation theory, variational methods. *Prerequisites: MATH 224 (or equivalent) and PHYS 212. Annually.*
- PHYS 248      Undergraduate Seminar      1.0; 1 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Senior standing. Annually.*
- PHYS 249      Nuclear and Elementary Particle Physics      3.0; 3 cr.**  
Introduction to scattering theory, nuclear phenomenology, nuclear models, nuclear radiation and fission and fusion, detectors and accelerators, properties of elementary particles, symmetries and transformations, and the standard model of elementary particles. *Prerequisites: Senior standing and consent of department. Annually.*

**PHYS 257L      Advanced Laboratory**
**0.6; 3 cr.**

A weekly lecture on instrumentation and a selection of six to eight experiments from the following list: transient and steady states of SH-oscillator, coupled oscillators bridge circuits, speed of sound in liquid, prism spectrometer, Frank–Hertz experiment, Planck constant, Currie temperature, magnetic susceptibility, measurement of gravitational acceleration, speed of light, Milikan’s drop oil experiment, the Hall effect, optics, the Faraday effect, and nuclear magnetic resonance. *Prerequisite: PHYS 221L. Annually.*

## 36+1<sup>1</sup> Credits in Physics<sup>2</sup>

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12)	Social Sciences (3)	Sciences, Math, and Technology (36+ 11 + 13)
Lecture Courses (9+12+3+36+1 <sup>1</sup> +13)	1. Required Arabic courses: ARAB 201A or B, or any upper level course (3) 2. Required English courses (6): ENGL 203(3), 204(3)	Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP (see CVSP requirements under Civilization Sequence Program)	Recommended Economics (level 200) (3)	1. Required physics courses (24): PHYS 210(3), 212(3) 217(3), 220(3), 222(3), 226(3), 235(3), 236(3) 2. Two elective physics courses (6 ): PHYS 228 <sup>1</sup> (3), 223(3), 231(3), 232(3), 249(3), or other selected topics in physics 3. Required mathematics and technology courses (13): MATH 201(3), 202(3), 224(3), CMPS 200(4)
Seminar (1)				Elective PHYS 248(1)
Laboratory (6+1 <sup>1</sup> )				Required Physics Labs: PHYS 210L(1), 221L(2), 228L(1)1, 257L(3)
Research Project				The following courses may include a research project: PHYS 222, 226, 231, 232, 235, 236, 249

1 Must be taken with PHYS 228L

2 Plus 17 elective credits from outside the department

**THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED ABOVE APPLY TO STUDENTS WHO JOINED THEIR MAJOR AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2001–02. STUDENTS WHO JOINED A MAJOR PRIOR TO THAT DATE SHOULD CONSULT THE 2000–01 CATALOGUE.**