



COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** PHYS 481, Computational Physics II - Fall 2023

Lecture 01 : T 15:30 - 16:20 in ST 026

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
Dr Christopher Cully	cmcully@ucalgary.ca	Please use email	SB 631	Mon 11-12 or by appointment

Lecture 02 : M 15:30 - 16:20 in ST 026

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

To account for any necessary transition to remote learning for the current semester, courses with in-person lectures, labs, or tutorials may be shifted to remote delivery for a certain period of time. In addition, adjustments may be made to the modality and format of assessments and deadlines, as well as to other course components and/or requirements, so that all coursework tasks are in line with the necessary and evolving health precautions for all involved (students and staff).

In Person Delivery Details:

The course will be delivered in-person in the PJI computer lab ST026. The PHYS 481 tutorials run Tuesdays 1630-1720 and Thursdays 1530-1720. This means that the class effectively runs TR 1530-1720, and you should plan your time around this schedule accordingly. Computational Physics is an applied discipline and you learn by working on problems. The official lecture time will be largely spent reviewing the essential physics (or mathematics), while tutorial time will be devoted to active learning (via problem solving) using Python. It is therefore strongly recommended that all students attend all tutorials.

Course Site:

D2L: PHYS 481 L01-(Fall 2023)-Computational Physics II

Note: Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

Equity Diversity & Inclusion:

The University of Calgary is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus, and condemns harm and discrimination of any form. We value all persons regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA2S+ identity and expression, disability, religion, spirituality, and socioeconomic status. The Faculty of Science strives to extend these values in every aspect of our courses, research, and teachings to better promote academic excellence and foster belonging for all.

The Physics and Astronomy EDI Committee acknowledges there are persistent barriers that prevent such accessibility and hinder our progress towards EDI. Our representatives (faculty, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students) are committed to addressing any concerns and work towards proactive solutions that enact necessary change within the department. To submit anonymous questions, comments or concerns regarding EDI related issues, please reach out to our Associate Head EDI, Claudia Gomes da Rocha (claudia.gomesdarocha@ucalgary.ca)

2. **Requisites:**

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

Prerequisite(s):

Physics 381 or Computer Engineering 335; and one of Mathematics 375 or 376.

3. **Grading:**

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Course Component	Weight	Due Date (duration for exams)	Modality for exams	Location for exams
Assignments ¹	55%	Ongoing		
Group project ²	15%	Oct 12 2023		
Midterm quiz	10%	Nov 09 2023 at 03:30 pm (50 Minutes)	in-person	In Class
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	20%	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar	in person	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar

¹ Computational physics is highly applied, and the best way to learn it is through practice. There are tentatively 9 assignments, introduced in class on Tuesdays and due before class the following Tuesday. The lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

² The group project will be introduced on Oct 3. You will have class time Oct 3/5/10 to work on it, and presentations will be on Oct 12.

Each piece of work (reports, assignments, quizzes, midterm exam(s) or final examination) submitted by the student will be assigned a grade. The student's grade for each component listed above will be combined with the indicated weights to produce an overall percentage for the course, which will be used to determine the course letter grade.

The conversion between a percentage grade and letter grade is as follows.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
Minimum % Required	95 %	90 %	85 %	80%	75%	70 %	65 %	60%	55%	50 %	45 %

This course will have a Registrar Scheduled Final exam that will be delivered in-person and on campus. [The Final Examination Schedule](#) will be published by the Registrar's Office approximately one month after the start of the term. The final exam for this course will be designed to be completed within 2 hours.

The University of Calgary offers a [flexible grade option](#), Credit Granted (CG) to support student's breadth of learning and student wellness. Faculty units may have additional requirements or restrictions for the use of the CG grade at the faculty, degree or program level. To see the full list of Faculty of Science courses where CG is not eligible, please visit the following website: <https://science.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/program-advising/flexible-grading-option-cg-grade>

4. Missed Components Of Term Work:

In the event that a student legitimately fails to submit any online or in-person assessment on time (e.g. due to illness, domestic affliction, etc...), please contact the course coordinator, or the course instructor if this course does not have a coordinator to arrange for a re-adjustment of a submission date, or possible exemption and reweighing of components. Absences not reported within 48 hours will not be accommodated. Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation ([Section M.1](#)) for an excused absence, See [FAQ](#).

If an excused absence is approved, options for how the missed assessment is dealt with is at the discretion of the coordinator or course instructor. Some options such as an exemption and pro-rating among the components of the course may not be a viable option based on the design of this course.

To account for unexpected circumstances, the lowest assignment grade will be automatically dropped. Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% reduction within the first 24 hours of the deadline and a 30% reduction from 24 to 48 hours. No assignments will be accepted after 48 hours (usually the start of the Thursday class) since solutions may be posted at that time.

Students with an excused absence for their presentation will be required to present their portion of the project at a later date in a one-on-one meeting.

Students with an excused absence for the quiz will have the grade weight transferred to the final exam. This should be strongly avoided, since the quiz is a low-stakes chance to practice for the final exam.

5. Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out of class activities for this course.

6. Course Materials:

Recommended Textbook(s):

Kong, Siau and Bayen, *Python Programming And Numerical Methods: A Guide For Engineers And Scientists* Elsevier.
Linge and Langtangen, *Programming for Computations – Python*. Springer Open.
Kalos and Whitlock, *Monte Carlo Methods (2nd ed)*: Wiley-VCH.

There is a lot of information about computational physics online. The 3 texts above are each good resources for different parts of the course. Excerpts of the first text (sufficient for this course) are available for free download at pythonnumericalmethods.berkeley.edu. The second text is released under an open source license and is available for download at doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-32428-9. The Monte Carlo methods textbook is available for download from the library.

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

For more information please refer to the UofC [ELearning](#) online website.

7. Examination Policy:

The midterm quiz and final exam will be written in the same PjL computer room as the lectures (ST026). You will have access to the PjL computing environment and your assignments (if they are stored there), but the connection to the outside world will be blocked during the exam.

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

8. Approved Mandatory And Optional Course Supplemental Fees:

There are no mandatory or optional course supplemental fees for this course.

9. Writing Across The Curriculum Statement:

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also [Section E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

10. Human Studies Statement:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

11. Reappraisal Of Grades:

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

- Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within **ten business days** of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work [form](#) to the department in which the course is offered within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor. The Department will arrange for a reappraisal of the work within the next ten business days. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar
- Final Exam:** The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

12. Other Important Information For Students:

- a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).
- b. **SU Wellness Services:** For more information, see their [website](#) or call [403-210-9355](#).
- c. **Sexual Violence:** The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email (syva@ucalgary.ca) or phone at [403-220-2208](#). The complete University of Calgary policy on sexual violence can be viewed [here](#).
- d. **Student Ombuds Office:** A safe place for all students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems.
- e. **Student Union Information:** [SU contact](#), Email your SU Science Reps: science1@su.ucalgary.ca, science2@su.ucalgary.ca, science3@su.ucalgary.ca,
- f. **Academic Accommodation Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>.

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, by filling out the [Request for Academic Accommodation Form](#) and sending it to Dr. David Feder by email phas.ahugrd@ucalgary.ca preferably 10 business days before the due date of an assessment or scheduled absence.

- g. **Misconduct:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional [Code of Conduct](#) and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. Some examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: posting course material to online platforms or file sharing without the course instructor's consent; submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. Please read the following to inform yourself more on academic integrity:

[Student Handbook on Academic Integrity](#)
[Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Procedure](#)
[Faculty of Science Academic Misconduct Process](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

Additional information is available on the [Student Success Centre Academic Integrity page](#)

- h. **Copyright of Course Materials:** All course materials (including those posted on the course D2L site, a course website, or used in any teaching activity such as (but not limited to) examinations, quizzes, assignments, laboratory manuals, lecture slides or lecture materials and other course notes) are protected by law. These materials are for the sole use of students registered in this course and must not be redistributed. Sharing these materials with anyone else would be a breach of the terms and conditions governing student access to D2L, as well as a violation of the copyright in these materials, and may be pursued as a case of student academic or [non-academic misconduct](#), in addition to any other remedies available at law.
- i. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). Students should identify themselves on all written work by

placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information, see [Legal Services](#) website.

- j. **Surveys:** At the University of Calgary, feedback through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction ([USRI](#)) survey and the Faculty of Science Teaching Feedback form provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference - please participate in these surveys.

Tentative outline of the weekly schedule and assignments:

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	Sept 5/7	Introduction. Data import, plotting, differentiation and integration.	A1 (due Sept 12)
2	12/14	Images	A2 (due Sept 19)
3	19/21	ODE Boundary Value Problems	A3 (due Sept 26)
4	26/28	Shuffling and pseudorandom numbers	A4 (due Oct 3)
5	Oct 3/5	Project kickoff	
6	10/12	Project presentations Oct 12	
7	17/19	Cellular automata, random walks	A5 (due Oct 24)
8	24/26	Monte Carlo Methods	A6 (due Oct 31)
9	31/Nov 2	Laplace and Poisson equations	A7 (due Nov 7)
10	Nov 7/9	Review. Midterm Quiz Nov 9	
Reading Week			
11	21/23	Wave and Schrodinger equations	A8 (due Nov 28)
12	28/30	Fourier methods	A9 (due Dec 5)
13	Dec 5	Wrap-up	

Course Outcomes:

- At the completion of the course, students will have gained experience:
- Working independently and in groups on numerical approaches to solving problems in physics, using Python;
- Solving ordinary and partial differential equations of physics by numerical methods;
- Exploring the limitations and power of randomization for solving problems in physics.

Electronically Approved - Aug 31 2023 22:52

Department Approval