

PHYS 414, Introduction to General Relativity 2011

- **Instructor:** Larry Widrow; Office: 308F Stirling Hall; 533-6858; widrow@astro.queensu.ca Office Hours: Drop by or make an appointment by email
- **Lectures:** Monday, 4:30; Wednesday, 3:30, Friday, 2:30 Stirling 412A
- **Required Text:**
General Relativity by J. Hartle
- **Other Texts**
Gravitation by Misner, Thorne, and Wheeler
- **Tutorials:** Tutorials will begin in either week 2 or 3 and will be held on Tuesdays in Room 412A.
- **Assignments:** There will be roughly 8 problem sets over the term. I will announce the problems during the Wednesday lecture and also post them on the course website.
- **Webpage:** The website for the course is www.physics.queensu.ca/~phys414/ and will contain important announcements and problem set assignments and lecture notes (TBA). Though I try to keep the website up-to-date, you are responsible for material as presented in the lectures.
- **Midterms** We will have a 1 1/2 hour midterm in week 7
- **Mark Breakdown**
 - Assignments 25%
 - Midterm 25%
 - Final 50%Marks will be calculated on a “numbers in/letters out” basis.

- **Problem Sets and Academic Integrity**

You are encouraged to read the discussion of academic integrity which can be found on the Faculty of Arts and Sciences website.

With respect to problem sets, you are permitted to discuss problems with each other. I am also fairly generous with hints. However, you must write up problem sets independently and in your own words and notation.

You may not use problem set solutions obtained from students who took the course in a previous year or posted on a website. If you do stumble upon a solution to a problem in another general relativity text, then write up the solution in your own words *and* cite your source.

You may, of course, use Maple, Mathematica, integral tables, or web-based mathematics resources. Maple/Mathematica worksheets should be included, preferably as an appendix to the hand-written solution.

Along these lines, your problem set solutions should contain enough descriptive information (words, figures) so as to provide a narrative to the problem. (e.g., we begin with Eq x.y from Hartle, ——. Multiply by Z to obtain ——. ... From the problem, we learn that ..). Simply getting the right solution does not guarantee you a perfect mark!

If you have any questions regarding these policies