Our tentative schedule for the semester is to cover part I in the book and as much of part II as is reasonable. If you have not yet taken PHYS 3801, you should familiarize yourself with the notes from that class (available online at http://www.chemistry.armstrong.edu/baird/3801.1st.lecs.pdf and http://www.chemistry.armstrong.edu/baird/3801.3rd.lecs.pdf). The optics material can largely be ignored. While Linear Algebra is not formally required for the course, it is very helpful to have at least some understanding of some of the concepts (especially the ideas of vector spaces and eigenvectors/eigenvalues). Many different resources for this exist on the web, including full videos of lectures available at ocw.mit.edu.

Homework

You are free to work in groups on your homework assignments, but you should be careful not to use the group as a crutch. It may be best to spend some time trying to do each problem alone before meeting as a group. If you do work in a group, make certain that you fully understand any problem on which you receive help. When you’re taking a test, there won’t be anyone there to help, and you’ll have to rely on your own understanding. You may find the answers to some homework problems online; using them without understanding why they are solutions will make them almost useless to you.

Honor Code

The AASU Honor Code (found in the student handbook) will be strictly upheld. Any violations or attempted violations will receive the harshest punishment allowed, including but not limited to a grade of F for the course.

Tests and Grading

The grade will be determined by tests (50%), a final exam worth 35%, and homework assignments and/or in-class work for the remaining 15%. The tests will be approximately evenly spaced throughout the semester. If you must miss a test, you must contact me as soon as possible to schedule a makeup exam. You should bring an ordinary scientific calculator (about $10 most places) to class and especially to the tests. I will clear the memory of all programmable calculators before each test. Sometime before the first test,
make sure you have brought your calculator to me so that I’ll know how to do that and you’ll be able to use it during your test.

Armstrong is dedicated to providing a safe and equitable learning environment for all students. Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Title IX Office in Victor Hall Room 245 or by email diversity@armstrong.edu. This is important for the safety of the whole Armstrong community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The University Counseling Center provides 24/7 confidential support, and the http://www.armstrong.edu/counseling_center describes reporting options and other resources.

Armstrong State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities, as required under federal law. Disabilities may include learning disabilities, ADD, psychological disorders, brain injury, Autism Spectrum Disorders, serious chronic medical illnesses, mobility impairment, communication disorders, vision or hearing loss or temporary injuries. The purpose of disability accommodation is to provide equal access to the academic material and equal access to demonstrate mastery of the material. Students with disabilities must meet all the academic requirements and standards of the class, including the attendance policy. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services, located on the second floor of Memorial College Center, room 208. You will need to meet with Disability Services Staff, who can help you gather documentation of your disability or refer you to an appropriate resource for assessment. Once documentation of the disability is gathered and approved, Disability Staff will provide you with an Accommodation Letter, detailing the appropriate, approved accommodations, which you should present to me so we can discuss and implement your accommodations. Disability accommodations work best starting at the beginning of the semester, but can be approved and started at any point in the semester. Accommodations start at the time the Accommodation Letter is presented to faculty, within reasonable timelines. Accommodations are not given retroactively. Accommodations are not part of your academic transcript.

This syllabus is subject to modifications (which will be announced in class) during the semester.