PHYS 641-102: Statistical Mechanics

Junjie Yang

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Physics 641_Statistical Mechanics Syllabus  Spring 2022

Class meeting: FMH314, Mondays, 6:00 pm-8:50 pm
Jan 18, 2022 – May 3, 2022

Instructor       Email                Office Location & Hours
Prof. Junjie Yang  jyang@njit.edu   Mondays 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
                             Tiernan Hall 460

General Information

Descriptions
The main goal of this course is to help students understand the statistical mechanics including classical and quantum statistical mechanics. The course objective will be accomplished through lecture and problem solving. The class will also follow a question-and-answer approach. Students are encouraged to read the materials in textbooks before coming to class. The Course Schedule below lists topics covered. Professors will make an effort to help the students succeed by using active learning. See: https://physics.njit.edu/

Prerequisites:
Knowledge of thermodynamics and quantum mechanics at undergraduate level.

Learning Expectations, Goals and Outcomes
1) Demonstrate an understanding of terms such as equipartition theorem, entropy, fluctuations, heat capacities, Bose-Einstein distributions, Fermi-Dirac distributions and phase transitions and the ability to use them in the context of physical systems.
2) Utilize the laws of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics (in particular, ensembles and partition functions) to analytically describe various thermodynamics systems and processes.
3) To be able to solve problems for equilibrium properties of simple quantum systems.

Professors and students will measure Outcomes by the performance on assessments as listed below under final grade calculations.

Course Materials
Text (optional)
Keith Stowe, An Introduction to Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics,
Mehran Kardar, Statistical Physics of Particles
Kerson Huang, Statistical Mechanics.

*Canvas is required for this course and supplements the text. Some quizzes may be online via Canvas. Assignments, information and grades will be on Canvas.

Final Grade Calculation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Weights for parts of the course are as follows:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project and Oral presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Participation:** (10% of grade) Students are expected to participate regularly in class discussions by asking and answering questions, volunteering to solve problems, and working actively with others during in-class group assignments. When all students participate in each class, it creates an active learning environment that will help you understand the materials and be more successful in the class.

**Research project and Oral presentation:** (30% of grade) A research-based project will be assigned to each student. Each student will do a 20-min oral presentation.

**Homework:** (30% of grade) Homework questions are closely related to previous exams, so the understanding you gain from doing them is an added benefit. The homework is the greatest help for yourself if you figure it out by yourself.

**Final Exam:** (30% of grade) The Final will emphasize an overview of the whole course. The professors will help you as much as possible by covering all concepts and all settings of exam questions in class and with review sessions. Make-ups for missed exams are only with advance permission from both your instructor and the Dean of Students.

The conversion of numerical to letter grades is as follows: > 85% A; >80 to 85 B+; >70 to 80 B; >65 to 70 C+; >55 to 65 C and <55 F

If you need any extra information about class, or exam questions, ask Prof. Junjie Yang. After the Final exam, the course ends, and questions and grades are not open to discussion.

**Course Policies**

**Honor Code:** The NJIT Student Council dictates: “NJIT has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating of any kind and for student behavior that disrupts learning by others.” The NJIT Student Senate has requested a zero-tolerance policy for cheating of any kind and for behavior that disrupts learning. The Senate wants fairness for all students. The Dean of Students determines punishments and requires professors to report any incidents. The penalties include failure in the course plus disciplinary probation up to expulsion from NJIT. Avoid situations where anyone could misinterpret your behavior as dishonorable. Students are required to agree to the NJIT Honor Code on each exam, assignment, quiz, etc. for the course. Turn off all cellular phones, wireless devices, computers, and messaging devices of all kinds during classes and exams. Please do not eat, drink, or create noise in class that interferes with the work of other students or instructors.

**Missed exams:** There are no make-ups for in-class activities. If you miss an exam and the make-up time, you will receive a score of zero for that Exam. That score will be included in the calculation of your final grade. If you miss two exams, you will automatically fail the course.
To get credit for an exam, you must notify your instructor PRIOR TO the exam you will miss, as above. In order to be qualified to receive a "make-up" exam score (a very rare occurrence), the student should present documentation for not being able to take the test as scheduled. As is the standard policy of NJIT, this documentation should be presented to the student’s to the Dean of Students - (973) 596-3466, Room 255 Campus Center. BOTH the instructor and Dean of Students must concur in permitting a "make-up" exam. Students who miss exams that do not present documentation within 7 days of the exam will receive a score of zero for the exam.

Late work: Homework is due by times and dates indicated in the homework.

Class attendance: The NJIT attendance policy is the following: “It is expected that students will attend all classes. Your teacher will take attendance at all classes and exams. More than 3 unexcused absences (in total) are excessive.” If you have excusable absences, contact your instructor or the Dean of Students - (973) 596-3466, Room 255 Campus Center. If you have to miss class, let your professor know.

Withdrawal: If you must withdraw from the course, do it officially through the Registrar, otherwise your course grade will be F.

Electronics: Cell phones and laptops must be off during classes and exams, except as indicated by the instructor.

**Course Schedule**

Classes start on Monday Jan 24th;

We recommend that you read all chapters in our textbook as indicated below before class. The combination of reading and discussion helps learning.

*Week 1 to 3:* Basic concepts and laws  
Probabilities, Fluctuations and Distributions  
Degree of freedom, Equipartition theorem  
First Law, Second Law and Third Law  
Heat Capacity, Entropy, Free Energy and Special Processes

*Week 4 to 6:* Classical Statistics  
Ensembles: Micro-canonical, Canonical, Grand canonical,  
Occupation number, Partition Functions  
Maxwell-Boltzmann Statistics  
Interaction and van der Waals gas

*Week 7 to 14:* Quantum Statistics  
Phonons, Photons,  
Fermi statistics,  
Bose-Einstein statistics, Superfluids  
Phase Transitions, Landau theory, Spins and Magnetism  
Introduction to numerical simulation

*Week 15 to 16:* Oral presentation
Exams:
Final exam: TBA, Course materials from week 1 to week 14.

Additional Information and Resources

Resources for NJIT Students
Academic Advising Success Center “...assist in the advisement of students who are undecided in their major, transitioning into another major at NJIT, and those students who need additional support to graduate successfully and in a timely manner.”
Academic Support and Student Affairs “From questions about becoming a student at NJIT – to student engagement – to searching for information on career development, the Division of Academic Support and Student Affairs Staff is here to help.”
Additional Tutoring Centers Physics Learning Center; Math Learning Center; Chemistry Learning Center; The Writing Center; ECE Study Groups Center for Counseling and Psychological Services
“The NJIT Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) is committed to assisting students in the achievement of their academic goals as well as benefiting from their personal experience on campus. College life can be personally challenging and stressful at times. We believe that the educational process is an important component of the development of the individual as a whole person. Our goal is to optimize the college experience and improve the quality of the lives of our students by promoting their mental health and facilitating students’ personal, academic and professional growth.”
Department of Public Safety “The Department of Public Safety, conveniently located at 154 Summit St. on the first level of the Parking Deck, provides police protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.”
Disability Support Services “If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Chantonette Lyles, Associate Director of Disability Support Services, Fenster Hall Room 260 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Disability Support Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.”
Health Services “To ensure the good health of our students, the NJIT Student Health Service provides quality healthcare to all eligible NJIT registered students.”
IST Service Desk “The IST Service Desk is the central hub for computing information and first point of contact for getting help and reporting issues related to computing technology at NJIT. There is much technology here at NJIT, and many ways to find information or get help with it.”
The Learning Center “Our mission is to assist students both in the classroom and beyond by providing tutorial services, academic coaching, academic and personal enrichment workshops and staff and peer support so students can meet the demands of their coursework and are prepared for life after graduation.”
NJIT/Rutgers Shuttle Service “The shuttle bus is operated jointly with Rutgers-Newark and provides transportation for the University community between the two campuses, major mass transit systems, and Harrison and Kearny. As a courtesy, shuttle service is free to the Rutgers/NJIT community who present identification.”
Office of Global Initiatives Resources for international students and study abroad programs. Robert W. Van Houten Library “The Van Houten Library offers electronic and print resources essential to the mission of New Jersey's science and technology university, including a core collection of academic books, databases, and journals, as well as research and consultation services.”
Student Financial Aid Services “Student Financial Aid Services (SFAS) at NJIT is committed to
providing you with every opportunity to obtain funding to support your educational costs at NJIT.”

Spring 2022 Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Saturday Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day to Add/Drop a Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal, No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Spring Recess Begins - No Classes Scheduled - University Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Spring Recess Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Last Day to Withdraw</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Good Friday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Easter Sunday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Friday Classes Meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Reading Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Reading Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Final Exams Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Final Exams End</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Final Grades Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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