

Physics 211 and 211 Lab Changes for Fall 2022

In a nutshell:

- The course format is changing from lecture/lab to lecture/studio.
- The new format will be **two** 50-minute lectures, plus **two** 110-minute studio sessions per week. The Friday lecture time is reserved for testing and will otherwise be an optional Q&A session.
- Physics 211 and 211L are now **co-requisites** and must both be taken during the **same semester**.
- The lecture/studio format was designed using research-validated pedagogical practices shown to improve student learning.

With more detail:

Starting Fall of 2022, the organization and teaching of Physics 211, and 211L, will be different. While the course will seem similar in the catalog and the physics content will not change, it will be presented in an entirely new format called the Lecture/Studio model of teaching. The lecture part of the course will still occur in a large hall with many students, but will be much more interactive and engaging than previous incarnations of the course. The purpose of the lecture is to set the stage for the small-group studio instruction periods.

The studio part of the class will replace and expand the laboratory component of the original course. This instruction period will consist almost entirely of small group activities. The activities will consist of hands-on demos, group problem solving, and short labs with data collection and analysis. Students should expect to be guided and mentored in the studio sessions, rather than lectured to.

The lecture and studio are interleaved so that content introduced in lecture on Monday is expanded upon during the associated studio on Monday or Tuesday. This pattern is repeated on Wednesday and Thursday; the studio is closely linked to the lecture. Due to the highly integrated nature of this style of teaching, both the lecture and studio sections must be taken during the same semester. Students who have already taken a piece of the course and need credit for the other piece are encouraged to contact the Department of Physics and Astronomy for guidance.