Preliminary Information about PHYS 243, Fall 2010

Blackboard 9.1: George Mason is planning to upgrade to Blackboard 9.1 (Bb9.1) starting in the spring of 2011. We will pilot Bb9.1 on a limited basis starting in mid-September. Information on accessing Bb9.1 will be posted later. No use is planned for the current system (CE) unless problems develop with Bb9.1.

Required resources for PHYS 243, Fall 2010

Physics – Principles With Applications (6th ed.) Volume 1 by Giancoli is the required text. Access to an electronic version of the full text can be included with Mastering Physics (see below).

Mastering Physics: All recitation assignments after the second week will require access to the Mastering Physics problem solving system. Information for registering will be available when classes start. The Mastering Physics registration cost covers PHYS 243 and 245. The licensing agreement on the Mastering Physics website (see below) has the following statement

If for any reason within the first 15 days of registering directly with Pearson via an eCommerce transaction you are dissatisfied with the Website, you can request a full refund, whereupon your access and this License will terminate.

Because of this, I suggest you register for this service just before you need access, in case you decide to drop the course.

I>Clicker Personal Response System: This is a small device like a TV remote that allows students to answer questions posed in class. I>Clickers are used in many Biology and Chemistry classes and you may use the same remote in this class. You may not share a remote with a student in the other section and it is an honor offense to use someone else’s remote or to be using two remotes.

Calculator: You will need a scientific calculator for all classes, tests and the exam. For in-class tests the calculator must have no capability of any wireless communications and may not have any physics equations or information stored in or on it. For multiple choice tests an additional requirement is that the calculator may have no storage space for more than ten numbers and no programming abilities. I recommend that you get a cheap scientific calculator such as the TI-30X IIS.

Bookstore options:

The package that was requested includes:
Volume 1 of Giancoli
Mastering Physics for both semesters with access to an electronic version of the full text.
Coupon for $10 off on purchase of an I>Clicker
“Getting Ready for Physics” (I wasn’t able to get a review copy of this short book but it didn’t add anything to the cost. It is not required.)

If you decide not to purchase this package, you can sign up for Mastering Physics directly at the address below. You will have the option of purchasing it with or without access to an electronic version of the textbook.

http://www.masteringphysics.com/