

Physics 481: Condensed Matter Physics – Spring Semester 2011

- Instructor:** Thomas Vojta
Office: 119 Physics, phone: 341-4793, email: vojtat@mst.edu
- Office hours:** Tuesday 1pm to 2pm.
You can also email for an appointment or just drop in any time.
- Course home page:** http://www.mst.edu/~vojtat/class_481/class_481.html
- Class time:** 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Room 127 Physics Building
- Prerequisites:** Physics 461 – Quantum Mechanics I
- Recommended text:** “Condensed Matter Physics” by Michael Marder
(get the *corrected printing* which fixes a large number of typos)
- Further reading:** “Solid State Physics” by Ashcroft and Mermin
- Homework:** Homework will be given in class on Friday and also posted on the WWW. Assignments are due the following Friday. Each assignment is worth 40 points. A total of 400 points may be earned from the homework although more than 400 points of homework will be assigned. This allows you to miss a few problems without penalty.

Discussions among students are allowed and encouraged. However, the solutions you hand in should represent your effort and not that of a group. Document the intermediate steps of your solution (partial credit will be given) and list any reference material which you directly use.
- Project:** In addition to the homework you will work on one larger project (worth 200 points) in the second half of the semester. You will be able to choose from several topics (computer simulations, in-class talks).
- Tests:** There will be a midsemester test (Friday, March 4 from 1:00 to 3:00pm) counting 200 points and a comprehensive final (Monday, May 2 at 4:00 to 6:00pm) exam also counting 200 points.
- Course grade:** Grade will be based on the total number of points earned on the homework, test and exams, expressed as a percentage of the points available (1000). The relation between performance and grade will be the standard one: $A \geq 90\% > B \geq 80\% > C \geq 70\%$. The boundaries between the grades may be revised downwards (i.e., to the students benefit) depending upon the judgement of the instructor, but will not be revised upwards.
- Disability support service:** If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this course, I strongly encourage you to meet with me early in the semester. You will need to request that the Disability Services staff (dss@mst.edu) send me a letter verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need before I can arrange it.
- Academic Dishonesty:** You should behave as responsible scholars and scientists. Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, or sabotage is unethical and unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. For more detail see p. 30 of Student Academic Regulations 2008-2010 available at <http://registrar.mst.edu/academicregs/index.html>
- Complaints:** should be directed to Dr. Waddill (102 Physics, waddill@mst.edu)