



Subject: Physics Number: PHGN480

Course Title: Laser Physics

Section: A

Semester/year: Fall 2015

Instructor or Coordinator: Chip Durfee (Professor)

Contact information: MH330 x3894 cdurfee@mines.edu (office will change in Oct)

Office hours: M 12:30-3:30, W 12:30-2:30 (tentative). Find me in my office or in the 2nd floor laser lab.

Class meeting days/times: Lecture MW 11-11:50, Lab Th 9-12

Class meeting location: Lecture Berthoud 205, Lab Meyer Hall 263

Web Page link: http://ticc.mines.edu/csm/wiki/index.php/PHGN-480_Fall-2013

Teaching Assistant: Zack Fleegal

Contact information: GRL 1st floor mezz, x3794, zfleegal@gmail.com

Instructional activity: 2 hours lecture 3 hours lab 3 semester hours

Course designation: Elective

Course description from Bulletin: Theory and application of the following: Gaussian beams, optical cavities and waveguides, atomic radiation, detection of radiation, laser oscillation, nonlinear optics and ultrafast pulses.

Textbook and/or other requirement materials:

Required text: "Principles of Lasers," 5th edition, Orazio Svelto. This book is available online from a campus/VPN connection through the CSM library website.

Other recommended sources:

"Laser Physics," by S. Hooker and C. Webb.

"Lasers," Anthony Seigman. Comprehensive, slightly more advanced than Svelto.

"Solid State Laser Engineering," Walter Koechner (latest edition). This is the bible for laser builders, and included everything from laser theory to power supplies and cooling.

"Lasers and Electro-Optics: fundamentals and engineering," Christopher Davis. Another good comprehensive textbook at the advanced undergraduate/early graduate level. 2nd edition recently published.

"The quantum theory of light," Rodney Loudon. Very good early chapters on the connection between classical and quantum interactions of light with matter.

Student learning outcomes: At the conclusion of the class students will...

1. understand the interaction of light with quantum transitions, including the origin of gain in different media,
2. understand how to derive rate equations to describe the balance of stored energy in the gain medium and in the circulating light field in the resonator,
3. understand how to use matrix methods to calculate the propagation of light as rays and as Gaussian beams and how to use these matrices to design optical resonators,
4. understand how to build and apply a quantitative model of laser oscillation to a real laser system
5. be able to experimentally align and characterize simple lasers

Brief list of topics covered:

1. Atom-EM wave interactions: gain and absorption, line broadening
2. Laser pumping, rate equations and laser oscillation
3. Modeling ray and Gaussian beam propagation
4. Resonator design: transverse and longitudinal modes
5. Pulsed laser systems: Q-switching and modelocking
6. Introduction to ultrafast optics

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Academic misconduct is the intentional act of fraud, in which an individual seeks to claim credit for the work and efforts of another without authorization, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. Student Academic Misconduct arises when a student violates the principle of academic integrity. Such behavior erodes mutual trust, distorts the fair evaluation of academic achievements, violates the ethical code of behavior upon which education and scholarship rest, and undermines the credibility of the university. Because of the serious institutional and individual ramifications, student misconduct arising from violations of academic integrity is not tolerated at Mines. If a student is found to have engaged in such misconduct sanctions such as change of a grade, loss of institutional privileges, or academic suspension or dismissal may be imposed.

The complete policy is [online](#).

Grading Procedures:

Homework (30%): due approximately once a week.

Lab exercises (20%): lab meets each week, reports approximately every other week.

Midterm (20%)

Final project/presentation (30%): For the final project the students will write a report on a laser system, diagnostic or application of interest to the student, including design calculations. Each student will write a report and make a short presentation to the class.

Extra credit is available for students wishing to do extra experiments using equipment available in the laser lab. Please make arrangements with the instructor.

Coursework Return Policy: Expect to receive your graded homework within two weeks of turning it in. At the time we give homeworks back to you, solutions will be available in printed form in a binder that I'll keep, but you can make a copy.

Absence Policy (e.g., Sports/Activities Policy): Please make arrangements with the instructor in advance of any legitimate planned absences.

Homework:

- Homework will be posted on the course website. Any adjustments, clarifications or hints will be posted there.
- Homework must be turned in when it is due to be graded – plan ahead.
- Exams: If you will be absent during a scheduled exam, you should schedule a make-up time before you leave.

Detailed Course Schedule: See course Wiki for reading schedule, assignments, and Mathematica demos.