COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36585
Name: General Physics Laboratory
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 3.5
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1928 - Double Degree Program Physics-Mathematics	Facultat de Ciències Matemàtiques	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1928 - Double Degree Program Physics-Mathematics	Primer Curso (Obligatorio)	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

COLL COMPANY CESAR

SUMMARY

This course is an adjustment of the course "Introduction to Practical Physics", a basic training course in the first year of the Degree in Physics. It is complemented by General Physics I (first semester), II and III (second semester).

This is a basic subject in at least two aspects: the first one is the consolidation and experimental realization of the abstract concepts introduced in the lectures; the second one is the achievement of correct practice in laboratory work (taking data and analyzing it), which leads to the statistical treatment and analysis of uncertainties. Another fundamental aim of this course is to familiarize the student with handling measurement devices and managing quantities, units and uncertainties.

Curriculum keywords:

Laboratory work is based on simple experiments in different branches of physics, chosen for their experimental and conceptual relevance. Introduction to data analysis: direct measurements, determination and propagation of uncertainties, statistical analysis, linear fit, data registration, presentation and analysis of data, basic instrumentation, references and scientific communication of results.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

We know from experience that most of the students in the first year of University have had almost no previous contact with experiments in a physics laboratory. This course should serve to establish a solid basis for the experimental work in the laboratories of higher grades

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. THEORY

- Direct measurements and uncertainties estimation: Absolute and relative uncertainties
- Significant digits.
- Type A and Type B uncertainties.
- Propagation of uncertainties
- Linear interpolation.
- Least squares fits.
- Graphs and estimation of parameters in physics laws.

2. LABORATORY

P1. Measurement of fundamental quantities. Density of solids and mathematical pendulum
P2. Verification of Ohm's Law. Combination of resistances.
P3. Hooke's law. Elasticity and harmonic oscillation motion
P4. Density and viscosity of liquids
P5. Conservation of mechanical energy: Maxwells wheel
P6. Specific heat of metals
P7. Electromagnetic induction. Transformers
P8a. Geometrical optics: Reflection and refraction
P8b. Geometrical optics: Image formation
P9. Interference and Diffraction with laser beams

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours

Theory	8,00
Laboratory	27,00
Total hours	**35,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	**Hours**
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	44,50
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	8,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**52,50**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course has two parts with a distinct methodology:

1) Lectures

2) Laboratory.

Lectures:

The lectures are structured in sessions that take place during the first weeks of the course.

- The teacher explains the different topics interacting with students.

- Students will solve a series of exercises and problems.

Laboratory work

The course is structured in 3h/session. In each session 16 students are grouped in pairs and guided by one teacher. Attendance to these sessions is mandatory and a necessary condition for pass the course. The students must attend the lab having previously read the script of each experiment to be performed in each session (previously known). At the beginning of the session the teacher will monitor the understanding of that script and he will guide students on conceptual and technical aspects necessary to record experimental data.

Each student will have a logbook where he must record data, with tables and graphs, and any relevant comments on the implementation of the experiment. Students will be supervised during the session by the teacher, helping with correcting errors and work habits.

EVALUATION

Attendance to all the lab sessions is mandatory and a necessary condition for passing the course.

LECTURES: 20%

Exercises and questions solved by the students during the lectures or in \\"Aula Virtual\\" will be taken into account.

LABORATORY: 80%

- For each laboratory experiment, each pair of students must submit a brief report with measurement data, the corresponding analysis (uncertainties, graphics, etc.), together with the results and conclusions (60%).

- Additionally, each pair of students must submit one complete report following the structure of a scientific paper (introduction, material and methods, results, discussion, and conclusions) (20%).

The minimum score to pass this part is 5/10.

In the second call, the student will repeat the reports or memories that have not achieved the minimum grade.

REFERENCES

Basic:

- John R. Taylor. Introducción al análisis de errores: el estudio de las incertidumbres en las mediciones físicas. Editorial Reverté, Barcelona, 2014.
- G.L. Squires.Practical Physics, Third edition, Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- P.R. Bevington and D. K. Robinson.Data Reduction and Error Analysis for the Physical Sciences, McGraw-Hill International Editions Physics Series, Second Edition 1994.

Additional:

- Carlos Sánchez del Río. Análisis de errores, EUDEMA UNIVERSIDAD: Textos de Apoyo, 1989.