

Instructor: Dr. Roy Wensley  
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Meetings: MWF from 9:10-10:10 in Galileo 114  
M from 2:00-4:00 in Galileo 205  
Textbook *Motion from Aristotle to Einstein*  
Webpage: [physics.stmarys-ca.edu/classes/Phys040\\_F09](http://physics.stmarys-ca.edu/classes/Phys040_F09)

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the methods of science. The emphasis will be on gaining an appreciation for science as a “way of knowing.” Learning long lists of scientific “facts” will not be the focus—however, this does not mean facts are irrelevant. The goal will be to understand how to observe, catalog and then develop general rules to explain phenomena in nature, and to examine social and ethical issues that arise from scientific inquiry.

The class periods will consist of lectures, demonstrations, discussion, and in-class exercises. Come to class with questions and ideas about the material we will be reading and be prepared to participate. It is absolutely necessary that you come to class with an inquisitive mind!

### Grades

Your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Participation	10%
Two Hour Exams	25%
Final Exam	20%
Assignments and Quizzes	20%
Labs	15%

There will be 3 exams - two midterms and a final. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled on **Wednesday, December 9, 9:00-11:00am.**

If your expectations for a good grade are high, then be absolutely sure that the quality of your work matches your expectations. The criteria for grades are presented in the College’s Student Handbook. I also take the College’s Academic Honesty Policy very seriously. Be sure you do your own work and cite external sources that you use for ideas, paraphrase, or quote directly. Get satisfaction from doing your own thinking, speaking and writing, even if it means you may not be able to earn the grade you want.

### Office Hours

Office Hours will be posted soon. Check my door or the class website.

### Student Disability Services

Reasonable and appropriate accommodations, that take into account the context of the course and its essential elements, for individuals with qualifying disabilities, are extended through the office of Student Disability Services. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Student Disability Services Coordinator at (925) 631-4164 to set up a confidential appointment to discuss

Revolutions in Science  
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Fall 1996

accommodation guidelines and available services. Additional information regarding the services available may be on the Saint Mary's website.