

Software and deadlines policy, Special Relativity and Waves (171.201/171.207), Fall 2020 --  
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Given the extraordinary circumstances of the Fall 2020 semester, the class instructors will strive to improve the accessibility of this course to all students, regardless of where they are located, and to accommodate personal circumstances of service disruptions etc. **More than ever before, your success in remote learning will be predicated on your time management and organization.** Please be aware that this is a large class (nearly 50 people), so please make every effort to submit your assignments on time so that we do not have to address too many exceptions.

- I am planning three types of assignments. One is Google surveys for in-class participation quizzes. I have considered other options and found them less convenient. So **please let me know as soon as possible if you do not have access to Google and cannot use VPN.**
- The second is Gradescope for homework assignments. You should be able to upload a scanned or photographed PDF of your homework assignments, or if you write on a tablet then your saved screens. It might be a little annoying to photograph homeworks (e.g., with your phone), but in principle you should be able to get away with no printer or scanner for this class. I saw that some of you submitted answers to the math survey without printing the sheet, that's great.
- The third is Gradescope for exams. I will give you a 24-hour window to complete two-hour midterms and a three-hour final. SDS-approved extensions to exam time can be handled by Gradescope as well. Just like for homework, you will also need an ability to upload the scan or photograph of your paper-and-pencil solution.
- There is no need to type your assignments, but please write legibly, organize your solutions and highlight your answer.
- **For HW and exams, I recommend using one page per problem so that for Gradescope you can easily indicate which problems are on which pages.**
- Deadlines: If no extenuating circumstances, it is expected that Google quizzes are completed in class by synchronous students and within a week by asynchronous students; homeworks will be assigned a 50% penalty for late submissions within 48 hours; and exams must be submitted by the deadline.
- Technological implementation of deadlines: Google quizzes will not have a deadline (but I will see submission timestamps). Gradescope will be open for an extra 48 hours beyond the homework deadline and for an extra 24 hours beyond the exam deadline.

What to do if you are having a major technological issue?

- If you are attending a lecture or a section, your connection drops and you miss a lot of material, you may have to watch the asynchronous video later and answer the Google quiz at that time. There is no need to notify the instructors, and we will not take attendance.
- If you are submitting the homework or the exam on time, but technology goes sideways and you miss the deadline, submit in the 48 hour extended window (24 hours for exams) and send an email to NLZ about what happened so that you do not suffer the 50% penalty (100% penalty for the exam). **Avoid submitting at the last moment!**
- If your internet really goes sideways for several days and Gradescope is closed to submissions, do not panic. Finish your homework / exam and email the pdf to NLZ and explain.