



### *Physics 253 Syllabus*

**Professor Jim Freericks** ([james.freericks@georgetown.edu](mailto:james.freericks@georgetown.edu))

Office Hours: 12:00-12:30. T, Th; 12-1 F (but let me know that you want to meet by email)

<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97932600568>

TA: Pia Bhatia ([pb919@georgetown.edu](mailto:pb919@georgetown.edu))

Office Hours: TBD

#### **Course Meeting Times**

Tuesdays, 12:30-1:45pm ET (<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97932600568>)

Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm ET (<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97932600568>)

Fridays, 1:00-1:50pm ET (<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97932600568>)

Welcome to Intermediate Quantum Mechanics! In this course you will learn the conceptual and quantitative skills necessary to become a quantum mechanic! This course will operate in a flipped class format and take place via edX and Zoom. Please set up your [edX account](#) if you have not done so already. Specific course policies, information on grading, exams et cetera are detailed in the Overview section there. Below, I have listed what each course meeting will cover, as well as due dates for homeworks and exams.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,  
Professor Freericks

<b>Class Meeting</b>	<b>edX Material</b>
Thursday, August 27th	<i>Before class:</i> Classical mechanics of moving magnets <i>In class:</i> Classical Stern-Gerlach in detail
Friday, August 28th	<i>Before class:</i> Probability <i>In class:</i> Dirac notation
Tuesday, September 1st	<i>Before class:</i> Quantum probability, Stern-Gerlach analyzer loop, Analog of the two-slit experiment <i>In class:</i> Introduction to spin
Thursday, September 3rd	<i>Before class:</i> Wheeler's delayed choice experiment <i>In class:</i> Measurement
Friday, September 4th	<i>Before class:</i> Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen, Bell's inequality <i>In class:</i> Delayed choice experiments revisited
Tuesday, September 8th	<i>Before class:</i> NMR and MRI <i>In class:</i> Implications of the EPR/Bell experiments
Thursday, September 10th	<i>Before class:</i> Wave or particle, Exploring the quantum nature of light, Developing the quantum model for light <i>In class:</i> Classical description of diffraction from slits
Friday, September 11th	<i>Before class:</i> Understanding the quantum mystery, Applications of the quantum theory of light <i>In class:</i> Dirac and the quantum mystery
Tuesday, September 15th	<i>Before class:</i> Introduction to quantum seeing in the dark, Mach-Zehnder interferometers <i>In class:</i> Mach-Zehnder the Dirac way
Thursday, September 17th	<i>Before class:</i> The quantum Zeno effect <i>In class:</i> Polarization the Dirac way
Friday, September 18th	<i>Before class:</i> Quantum seeing in the dark

	<i>In class:</i> Two-slit experiment with polarizers
Tuesday, September 22nd	<i>Before class:</i> Identical particles and the Hong-Ou-Mandel experiment <i>In class:</i> Boson statistics
Thursday, September 24th	<i>Before class:</i> Pauli spin matrices <i>In class:</i> Practice with Pauli spin matrices
Friday, September 26th	<i>Before class:</i> Pauli matrix identities <i>In class:</i> Exponential disentangling identity
Tuesday, September 29th	<i>Before class:</i> Canonical commutation relation of position and momentum <i>In class:</i> Commutators of position and momentum
Thursday, October 1st	<i>Before class:</i> Hadamard identity <i>In class:</i> Position and momentum eigenstates
<b>Friday, October 2nd</b>	<b>Midterm I.</b> Must be taken during a 24 hour period before October 4, 11:59 pm, ET
Tuesday, October 6th	<i>Before class:</i> Free particle on a circle <i>In class:</i> Technical issues with the particle on a circle
Thursday, October 8th	<i>Before class:</i> Heisenberg's uncertainty relation <i>In class:</i> Introduction to the simple harmonic oscillator
Friday, October 9th	<i>Before class:</i> Schroedinger factorization for the SHO <i>In class:</i> Another factorization for the SHO
Tuesday, October 13th	<i>Before class:</i> Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff identity <i>In class:</i> Simple harmonic oscillator wavefunction
Thursday, October 15th	<i>Before class:</i> Coherent states I <i>In class:</i> Coherent states II
Friday, October 16th	<i>Before class:</i> Simple harmonic oscillator in 3D <i>In class:</i> Applications of the SHO

Tuesday, October 20th	<i>Before class:</i> Commutation relations and angular momentum <i>In class:</i> Rotations
Thursday, October 22nd	<i>Before class:</i> Spherical harmonics <i>In class:</i> Examples of spherical harmonics
Friday, October 23rd	<i>Before class:</i> Schroedinger factorization method <i>In class:</i> Singlet states and Bohm's version of EPR
Tuesday, October 27th	<i>Before class:</i> Schroedinger factorization method II <i>In class:</i> The node theorem
Thursday, October 29th	<i>Before class:</i> The two-body problem <i>In class:</i> EPR and time of flight
Friday, October 30th	<i>Before class:</i> Radial momentum <i>In class:</i> Separation of variables
Tuesday, November 3rd	<i>Before class:</i> Isotropic simple harmonic oscillator <i>In class:</i> Isotropic simple harmonic oscillator wavefunctions
Thursday, November 5th	<i>Before class:</i> Hydrogen <i>In class:</i> He <sup>+</sup> puzzle and discovery of deuterium
Friday, November 6th	<i>Before class:</i> Coulomb wavefunctions I <i>In class:</i> Coulomb wavefunctions II
Tuesday, November 10th	<i>Before class:</i> Cartesian factorization of Hydrogen <i>In class:</i> Momentum wavefunctions and electron momentum spectroscopy
<b>Thursday, November 12th</b>	<b>Midterm II.</b> Must be taken during a 24 hour period before November 14, 11:59 pm, ET
Friday, November 13th	<i>Before class:</i> First order perturbation theory <i>In class:</i> Hyperfine structure of Hydrogen and astronomy
Tuesday, November 17th	<i>Before class:</i> Second order perturbation theory

	<i>In class:</i> The proton charge radius
Thursday, November 19th	<i>Before class:</i> Particle in a box <i>In class:</i> Variational argument for the existence of bound states
Friday, November 20th	<i>Before class:</i> Time evolution and the Trotter formation <i>In class:</i> Time-dependence of coherent states
Tuesday, November 24th	<i>Before class:</i> Cyclotron resonance <i>In class:</i> Classical theory of light and Maxwell's equations
Tuesday, December 1st	<i>Before class:</i> Quantization of light and photons <i>In class:</i> Photomultiplier tubes
Thursday, December 3rd	<i>Before class:</i> Verifying single photons exist <i>In class:</i> Heterodyne and homodyne detection
Friday, December 4th	<i>Before class:</i> Mach-Zehnder interferometer and squeezed light <i>In class:</i> LIGO and gravitational waves
<b>Tuesday, December 15th</b>	<b>Final Exam.</b> Must be taken during a 24 hour period between Dec. 12 and Dec. 17, 11:59 pm, ET

### Due Dates for Problem Sets

- PS 1 - Friday, September 4
- PS 2 - Friday, September 11
- PS 3 - Friday, September 18
- PS 4 - Friday, September 25
- PS 5 - Friday, October 2
- PS 6 - Friday, October 9
- PS 7 - Friday, October 16
- PS 8 - Friday, October 23
- PS 9 - Friday, October 30
- PS 10 - Friday, November 6
- PS 11 - Friday, November 13
- PS 12 - Friday, November 20
- PS 13 - Friday, December 4



[Welcome video](#)