

Fusion Plasmas
ENU 6715 Section GPLF
Class Periods: M, W, F | period 7 (1:55 pm – 2:45 pm)
Location: LAR 0310
Academic Term: Spring 2025

Instructor:

Associate Professor Chris McDevitt

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(352) 846-3785

Office Hours: 174 Rhines Hall, Tuesdays (3 – 4 pm) and Thursdays (8:30 am – 9:30 am), or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Ethan Webb

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Office Hour: 126 Rhines Hall, Wednesdays (12:45-1:45pm), or by appointment

Course Description

3 credit hours.

This course provides an introduction to the concepts underlying plasma confinement in fusion devices.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

Instructor permission.

Course Objectives

1. Provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of fusion energy science.
2. Give a broad account of the basic principles of plasma physics and their application to fusion devices
3. Prepare students to undertake research in a range of areas in plasma physics and fusion science

Required Textbook

- Introduction to Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion
- Francis F. Chen
- 3rd Edition
- ISBN 978-3-319-22308-7

Recommended Textbook

- Plasma Physics and Fusion Energy
- Jeffrey Freidberg
- ISBN 978-0-521-73317-5

Recommended Materials

- NRL Plasma Formulary
- U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- A pdf can be downloaded at: <https://www.nrl.navy.mil/ppd/content/nrl-plasma-formulary>

Required Computer

UF student computing requirement: <https://news.it.ufl.edu/education/student-computing-requirements-for-uf/>

Course Schedule

Week 1: Light element fusion reactions and fundamentals of fusion power

Week 2: Cross sections, mean-free-path and the fusion reactivity integral

Week 3: Coulomb collisions and Bremsstrahlung radiation

HW 1

Week 4: Power balance and ignition criteria		
Week 5: Approaches to fusion energy	HW 2	Exam 1
Week 6: Debye Shielding and plasma fundamentals		
Week 7: Charged particle motion (1)	HW 3	
Week 8: Charged particle motion (2)		
Week 9: Plasmas as fluids (1)	HW 4	
Week 10: Plasmas as fluids (2)		Exam 2
Week 11: Magnetohydrodynamic equilibrium		
Week 12: Waves in plasmas (1)	HW 5	
Week 13: Waves in plasmas (2)		
Week 14: Fluid instabilities (1)	HW 6	
Week 15: Fluid instabilities (2)		Exam3

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Class attendance is encouraged but not required. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the graduate catalog <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/> and require appropriate documentation.

For most excused absences, HW deadlines will be extended. For prolonged absence, when HW solutions are released prior to your return, the HW missed may be taken as excused with the weight of other homework increased to preserve the total fraction of the grade allocated to HW.

Makeup exams will be offered for the same reasons as all other excused absences. Personal conflict with instructor-proposed makeup timings will not generally be honored.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework Sets	25%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
	100%

Homework:

Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas. Homework should be submitted electronically via the Canvas website only. The lowest homework score will be dropped. Students may work in groups, though each student should submit their own homework assignment. Late homework assignments will be penalized by 20% per day until solutions are posted. The graduate section will be distinguished from the undergraduate section by additional homework problems.

Exams:

Three exams will be given during the semester. These exams will be administered during the normal class time. I will provide roughly one week of advance notice.

Grading Policy

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
92 - 100	A	4.00
88 - 91.9	A-	3.67
84 - 87.9	B+	3.33
80 - 83.9	B	3.00
76 - 79.9	B-	2.67
72 - 75.9	C+	2.33
68 - 71.9	C	2.00

64 - 67.9	C-	1.67
60 - 63.9	D+	1.33
56 - 59.9	D	1.00
52 - 55.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that

are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- HWCoe Human Resources, 352-392-0904, student-support-hr@eng.ufl.edu
- Pam Dickrell, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, pld@ufl.edu
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, nishida@eng.ufl.edu

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the [Office of Title IX Compliance](#), located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, title-ix@ufl.edu

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; <https://career.ufl.edu>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>; <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/>; <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>.