

Elements of General Relativity I, Winter 2013: GENERAL INFORMATION

Lecturer

Rafael D. Sorkin

Course meeting times

Tu/Th 5:00-6:30, “Alice Room” (301)

Getting in touch with me

email: rsorkin@perimeterinstitute.ca (best method to reach me)
phone: 519 569 7600 x6591 (office); 519 743 6973 (home; up to 10:00pm)
Office Room Number: 225
Office Hours: by appointment

Getting in touch with you

If I have to distribute information between class meetings, I will send it to you by email. Please make sure I have your current email address.

Textbooks recommended to accompany the lectures

R. M. Wald *General Relativity*
B. F. Schutz *A First Course in General Relativity*

I will not be following either textbook closely.

Homework

Homework will be assigned periodically. Please hand the assignments in on time.

Collaboration

Collaboration is strongly encouraged in all aspects of this course. In particular, I encourage you to discuss the material together, to work on the problems together, to form study groups, etc. In this way everyone involved will learn more, enjoy more, and understand better. However, merely copying someone else’s answers on the homework is not appropriate. If you do a problem with someone else, then you should make sure that, after you have finished, you understand every step and would be able to solve it on your own if you came across it again.

Term project

In lieu of a final exam, everyone will write a term paper which will be prepared both in written form and as a class presentation. This can also be collaborative, and the topic can coincide with your ongoing research (assuming it is related to the subject matter of the course). *please discuss your topic and plans with me before starting work.*

Grading

The final grade will be a composite of the homework and the term project, using my “patented” 60-40 algorithm.