



# Course Specification

## (Bachelor)

Course Title: **Statistical physics**

Course Code: **PHY 1332**

Program: **Bachelor of Science in Physics**

Department: **Physics**

College: **Science**

Institution: **Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University**

Version: **4**

Last Revision Date: **26/09/2024**



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## A. General information about the course:

### 1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: ( 3 )

#### 2. Course type

A. ☐ University ☐ College ☒ Department ☐ Track ☐ Others  
B. ☒ Required ☐ Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: (Level 6/ Year 3)

#### 4. Course General Description:

This course presents the mathematics and quantum mechanics needed to understand statistical thermodynamics. It covers several important topics, including a mathematically sound presentation of statistical thermodynamics; the kinetic theory of gases including transport processes; and thorough, modern treatment of the thermodynamics of magnetism.

#### 5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

Thermal Physics, PHY 1230 and Quantum Mechanics (1), PHY 1312

#### 6. Co-requisites for this course (if any):

#### 7. Course Main Objective(s):

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define and discuss the concepts of macro state and microstate of a model system.
- Discuss the Boltzmann distribution and the role of the partition function.
- Define the Fermi-Dirac and Bose-Einstein distributions; state where they are applicable; understand how they differ and show when they reduce to the Boltzmann distribution.
- Apply the Fermi-Dirac distribution to the calculation of thermal properties of electrons in metals.
- Apply the Bose-Einstein distribution to the calculation of properties of black body radiation.

## 2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

| No | Mode of Instruction  | Contact Hours | Percentage |
|----|--|---------------|------------|
| 1  | Traditional classroom  | 60            | 100%       |
| 2  | E-learning   |               |            |
| 3  | Hybrid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional classroom</li> <li>E-learning</li> </ul> |               |            |
| 4  | Distance learning  |               |            |

## 3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

| No    | Activity          | 33 |
|-------|-------------------|----|
| 1.    | Lectures          | 30 |
| 2.    | Laboratory/Studio | 0  |
| 3.    | Field             | 0  |
| 4.    | Tutorial          | 30 |
| 5.    | Others (specify)  | 0  |
| Total |                   | 60 |

## B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

| Code | Course Learning Outcomes   | Code of PLOs aligned with the program | Teaching Strategies   | Assessment Methods   |
|------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1.0  | Knowledge and understanding  |                                       |   |  |
| 1.1  | Outline the background and main features of the historical development of quantum mechanics.   | K1, K2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lectures.</li> <li>Tutorials.</li> <li>Class discussions.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams.</li> <li>Participation.</li> <li>Discussions.</li> </ul> |
| 1.2  | State the historical importance of De Broglie's hypothesis, Schrödinger's wave function, and Born's probabilistic interpretation of the wave function. | K1, K2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lectures.</li> <li>Tutorials.</li> <li>Class discussions.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams.</li> <li>Homework.</li> <li>Quizzes.</li> </ul>          |
| 1.3  | Describe and solve the Schrödinger equation in the standard one-   | K1, K2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lectures.</li> <li>Class discussions.</li> <li>Tutorials.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation.</li> <li>Exams.</li> <li>Discussions.</li> </ul> |



| Code | Course Learning Outcomes  | Code of PLOs aligned with the program | Teaching Strategies  | Assessment Methods  |
|------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|      | dimensional examples-infinite and finite square wells, infinite well potentials, free particle, harmonic oscillator, and hydrogen atom. |                                       |  | Homework.   |
| 1.4  | Define and describe the Hilbert space, Dirac notation, and Basic postulates of Quantum Mechanics.                                       | K1, K2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures.</li> <li>• Class discussions.</li> <li>• Tutorials.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation.</li> <li>▪ Exams.</li> <li>▪ Discussions.</li> <li>▪ Homework.</li> </ul>   |
| 1.5  | Outline the Laws of thermodynamics and understand their statistical foundations.  | K1, K2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures.</li> <li>• Class discussions.</li> <li>• Tutorials.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation.</li> <li>▪ Exams.</li> <li>▪ Discussions.</li> <li>▪ Homework.</li> </ul>   |
| 2.0  | Values, autonomy, and responsibility  |                                       |  |   |
| 2.1  | Explain and summarize the basic knowledge gained from studying electromagnetic fields course.   | S1, S2                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lectures.</li> <li>▪ Class discussions.</li> <li>▪ Tutorials.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams.</li> <li>▪ Discussions.</li> <li>▪ Participation.</li> </ul>  |
| 2.2  | Develop the students ability to solve and analyze problems in physics related the topics covered by the course.                         | S2, S3                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Problem classes and group tutorial.</li> <li>▪ Homework assignments as well as problems solutions.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams.</li> <li>▪ Discussions.</li> <li>▪ Homework.</li> </ul>   |
| 2.3  | Communicate in a clear and concise manner orally, and using IT for acquiring and analyzing information.                                 | S4, S5                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures.</li> <li>• Class discussions.</li> <li>• Tutorials.</li> <li>• Encourage students to use electronic mail and internal network for submitting homework and assignments.</li> <li>• Use digital library.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams.</li> <li>▪ Participation and activities of students in the course community and blackboard.</li> <li>▪ Homework.</li> </ul> |
| 3.0  | Values, autonomy, and responsibility  |                                       |  |   |
| 3.1  | Show the collaboration and inter-professionalism in class discussions or team works, as well as solve problems independently.           | V1, V2, V3                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small team tasks</li> <li>• Open discussion at classroom.</li> <li>• Office hours.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation.</li> <li>▪ Homework.</li> <li>▪ Mini-project(s).</li> </ul>   |





## C. Course Content

| No    | List of Topics   | Contact Hours |
|-------|--|---------------|
| 1.    | <b>Statistical Thermodynamics:</b> Coin-tossing experiment. System of distinguishable particles. Thermodynamic probability and entropy. Quantum states and energy levels. Density of quantum states.   | 8             |
| 2.    | <b>Classical Statistics of Maxwell-Boltzmann:</b> Boltzmann statistics. The Boltzmann distribution. Partition function. Dilute gases and the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution. The connection between classical and statistical thermodynamics. Thermodynamic properties from the partition function. Partition function for a gas. Properties of a monatomic ideal gas. Applicability of the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution. Distribution of molecular speeds. Equipartition of energy. | 12            |
| 3.    | <b>Quantum statistics:</b> The Fermi-Dirac distribution. The Bose-Einstein distribution. Comparison of the distributions.  | 10            |
| 4.    | <b>Bose-Einstein and Fermi-Dirac Gases:</b> Blackbody radiation and properties of a photon gas. Bose-Einstein condensation. Properties of a boson gas. Application to liquid helium. The Fermi energy. The calculation of the chemical potential. Free electrons in a metal. Properties of a fermion gas. Application to white dwarf stars.  | 10            |
| 5.    | <b>The heat Capacity of a diatomic gas and of a solid:</b> The quantized linear oscillator. Vibrational modes of diatomic molecules. Rotational modes of diatomic molecules. Electronic excitation. The total heat capacity. Einstein theory of the heat capacity of a solid. Debye's theory of the heat capacity of a solid.  | 10            |
| 6.    | <b>The Thermodynamic of Magnetism:</b> Para magnetism. Properties of a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ paramagnet. Adiabatic demagnetization. Negative temperature. Ferromagnetism.   | 10            |
| Total |  | 60            |

## D. Students Assessment Activities

| No | Assessment Activities *  | Assessment timing (in week no) | Percentage of Total Assessment Score |
|----|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Class Activities (class quizzes, homework, solving problems, etc.....) | weekly                         | 10 %                                 |
| 2. | Midterm Exam 1   | 6 <sup>th</sup> week           | 25 %                                 |
| 3. | Midterm Exam 2   | 12 <sup>th</sup> week          | 25 %                                 |
| 4. | Final Exam   | 16 <sup>th</sup> week          | 40 %                                 |

\*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.).

## E. Learning Resources and Facilities

### 1. References and Learning Resources





|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Essential References     | - Asheley H. Carter, <i>Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics</i> , Prentise Hall (2000).  |
| Supportive References    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lokanathan S. and Gambhir R.S., <i>Statistical and Thermal Physics: an introduction</i>, P. H. I. (1991).</li> <li>- Patharia R. K., <i>Statistical Mechanics</i>, Oxford: Butterworth (1996).</li> <li>- Mandel F., <i>Statistical Physics</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, John Wiley (1988).</li> </ul> |
| Electronic Materials     | <a href="https://units.imamu.edu.sa/colleges/en/science/Pages/default.aspx">https://units.imamu.edu.sa/colleges/en/science/Pages/default.aspx</a>   |
| Other Learning Materials |   |

## 2. Required Facilities and equipment

| Items   | Resources   |
|---|---|
| <b>facilities</b><br>(Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classrooms.</li> <li>- Labs.</li> </ul>                          |
| <b>Technology equipment</b><br>(projector, smart board, software)                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classroom equipped with a whiteboard and a projector.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Other equipment</b><br>(depending on the nature of the specialty)                      |   |

## F. Assessment of Course Quality

| Assessment Areas/Issues                     | Assessor   | Assessment Methods   |
|---|--|--|
| Effectiveness of teaching                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students</li> <li>- Second examiner</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indirect (The students complete the evaluation forms at the end of term. Final exam is evaluated by the second examiner)</li> </ul> |
| Effectiveness of Students assessment        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instructors</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct (exams, HW, project, ...)</li> </ul>   |
| Quality of learning resources               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faculty</li> <li>- Students</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indirect (surveys)</li> </ul>   |
| The extent to which CLOs have been achieved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instructors</li> <li>- Program Leaders</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct (excel sheet)</li> </ul>   |
| Other                                       |  |  |

**Assessors** (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewers, Others (specify))

**Assessment Methods** (Direct, Indirect)





### G. Specification Approval

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| COUNCIL /COMMITTEE | Quality Unit-Physics Department |
| REFERENCE NO.      | Department council No. 06       |
| DATE               | 26/09/2024                      |

