

Physics 4251A — Quantum Physics II

Revised version as of October 3, 2025. Approved by the Dean's Office.

1. Course Information

Course Information

Prerequisite: Physics 3200A/B.

Antirequisite: The former Applied Mathematics 4251A

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Counselling) to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Prof. Martin Houde	mhoude2@uwo.ca		x86711	

Office Hours: I do not hold specific office hours, and I encourage you to contact me whenever you need. It is preferable that you send me e-mail ahead of time to make sure I am available or to make an appointment. The TA's office hours will also be posted on the course web site.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Calendar course description: Potential scattering, spin, addition of angular momenta, stationary and time-dependent perturbation theory, systems of identical particles, applications to atomic, molecular, solid state, nuclear, particle and atmospheric physics.

Learning outcomes

- To work with and apply the Dirac formalism of Quantum Mechanics to problems involving particle spin, angular momentum, and their time evolution.
- Solve for the time dependence for single particle systems in multiple dimensions using either wave mechanics or matrix mechanics.
- To solve simple perturbation theory problems and understand the basics of systems of identical particles in quantum mechanics.

Lectures: I use chalk and a blackboard in class but my lecture notes will be posted prior to each class on OWL.

First lecture: Friday, September 5, 2025

Fall Reading Week: November 3 – November 7, 2025

Last lecture: Monday, December 8, 2025

Exam period: December 11 – 22, 2025

Teaching Assistant: The TA for this course, their contact info and their office hours will be posted on the course OWL web site.

Course Outline: Lecture topics are centred on the key objectives of the course. The topic coverage shown below is approximate and may change depending on lecture progress. We may not get to all topics the list.

1. Review of: Stern-Gerlach Experiments; Rotations and Matrix Mechanics; Angular Momentum; and Time Evolution (Ch. 1 – 4)
2. System of Two Spin-1/2 Particles, EPR paradox, Bell Inequalities, Entanglement (Ch. 5)
3. Wave Mechanics and Harmonic Oscillator in 1D (Review; Ch. 6 – 7)
4. Translational and Rotational Symmetry in the Two-Body Problem (Ch. 9)
5. Bound States of Central Potentials (Ch. 10)
6. Time-Independent Perturbations (Ch. 11)
7. Identical Particles (Ch. 12)
8. Scattering, Time-Dependent Perturbation Theory, & Fermi's Golden Rule (Ch. 13 – 14)

Contingency plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

Textbook: The required textbook is *A Modern Approach to Quantum Mechanics*, 2nd edition, by John S.

Townsend. This is available at the UWO Bookstore; see this [link](#) to the Bookstore for more information. You can also get an electronic copy from the publisher at: <https://www.redshelf.com/book/522/>.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<http://westernu.brightspace.com>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

All course material will be posted to OWL: (<http://westernu.brightspace.com>).

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Calculator: You may need a scientific calculator at times in this course. Note however that you may not use a calculator app on a smart phone or other wireless device during an exam – only a standard scientific calculator. Please remember to bring it to exams – we do not supply loaners.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Assignments: You will receive lists of problems during the semester to turn in as assignments; there will probably be three such assignments during the semester. Students will be allowed to discuss the material among themselves and *electronically* turn in one copy per group of no more than three students. Assignments must be turned in at the requested date. However, a student may miss a single (one) due date once during the semester, and hand in the late assignment on the following lecture day without incurring any penalty. Otherwise, for every 24 hour period or portion thereof for which they are late, assignments will automatically have a third of the maximum number of points subtracted from their total.

Term Tests: There will be two 50-minute in-class term tests. These are expected to happen on the following dates: Friday, 17 October 2025; and Friday, 14 November 2025 but are subject to change: any changes will be announced in class. These are cumulative and could test material on topics covered at any earlier point in the course. Bring a calculator but no notes or books will be allowed, with the exception of a formula sheet (to be turned with your exam booklet(s)). The tests will include problems to be worked out. At the end you may or may not be required to obtain numerical answers; if you are, you will be required to maintain control of numerical accuracy to three significant digits and to include units.

Makeup exams or tests will not be offered in this course. If you miss one term test and your absence is approved through the Academic Advising Office, the 15% weight of that test will be redistributed equally between the remaining term test and the final exam. If both term tests are missed and both absences are approved, the full 30% will be added to the final exam.

Final Exam: Three hours long, covers material of the entire course. Bring a calculator and a formula sheet (to be turned with your exam booklet(s)). Date, time, and location are to be announced.

Grading:

Assignments: 25%

Term Tests: (15+15) 30%

Final Exam: 45%

Please note: The Department of Physics and Astronomy may, in rare cases, adjust the final course marks in order to conform to Departmental policy.

6. Student Absences

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request to the Student Absence Portal (SAP) **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- One of the two term tests
- Final Exam (Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar)

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you need to miss the final exam, you must submit your request through the student absence portal and provide documentation. You will be assessed for eligibility to write a special examination (the name given by the university for a make-up exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examination](#)).

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own.

7. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

8. Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Technology Only calculators are allowed on exams: basic calculators only (non-programmable). Any "smart" devices with ethernet connectivity are not allowed.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Remote Proctoring Software may be used in this course, including in the event of health lock-down. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

9. Support Services

Please visit the Western Engineering Academic Counselling webpage for information on add/drop courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.eng.uwo.ca/undergraduate/academic-support-and-accommodations/academic-counselling.html>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

This course is supported by the Science Student Donation Fund. If you are a student registered in the Faculty of Science or Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, you pay the Science Student Donation Fee. This fee contributes to the Science Student Donation Fund, which is administered by the Science Students' Council (SSC). One or more grants from the Fund have allowed for the purchase of equipment integral to teaching this course. You may opt out of the Fee by the end of September of each academic year by completing the online form linked from the Faculty of Science's Academic Advising site. For further information on the process of awarding grants from the Fund or how these grants have benefitted undergraduate education in this course, consult the Chair of the Department or email the Science Students' Council at ssc@uwo.ca.