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OH: Mondays, 1 - 2 pm, Physics Trailer 2
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It doesn't matter how beautiful your guess is or how smart you are or what your name is. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong. That's all there is to it.

- Richard Feynman

Or, I suppose, you need to improve your experimental method. Thankfully, for you, the method is laid out to you, step-by-step, in your lab manuals. This syllabus expands upon the regular rules regarding 9-series labs as explained in each lab manual.

Some Rules and Guidelines

- Prelabs are due at the beginning of lab.
- Do not be disruptive to your fellow group mates, the other lab students, and myself.
- Students caught fabricating data will be warned once. If they do so again, they will fail the course and be sent to Student Judicial Affairs.

How To Get That Check-Plus (and Maybe That High-Pass!):

Lab reports contain two types of questions:

1. Quantitative

These are questions regarding experimental measurements, data collection, data calculation, etc. Generally, you and your group will have the same answers to these. I review these questions to determine whether or not you should get a "check". A common mistake students make is forgetting to show their work when asked. Don't assume I'll follow your train of logic, or fill in the gaps for you, be explicit in your calculations.

2. Qualitative

For these, I look for thoughtful analysis to weigh your "check" up towards a "check-plus" or down towards a "check-minus". Often times you'll be asked for error analysis; remember: *Simply stating "human error" or "machine error" doesn't qualify as proper error analysis.* While you're expected to confer with your group mates, do not copy their answer verbatim.

The main question you should be asking yourself, in your qualitative answers, should be the same question I ask myself when I grade your labs: **Does your conclusion agree with your experiment?** That is to say, nearly everything you turn in to me must be supported by your data, and empirical thought.