



Modern Physics Newsletter (Issue #2)

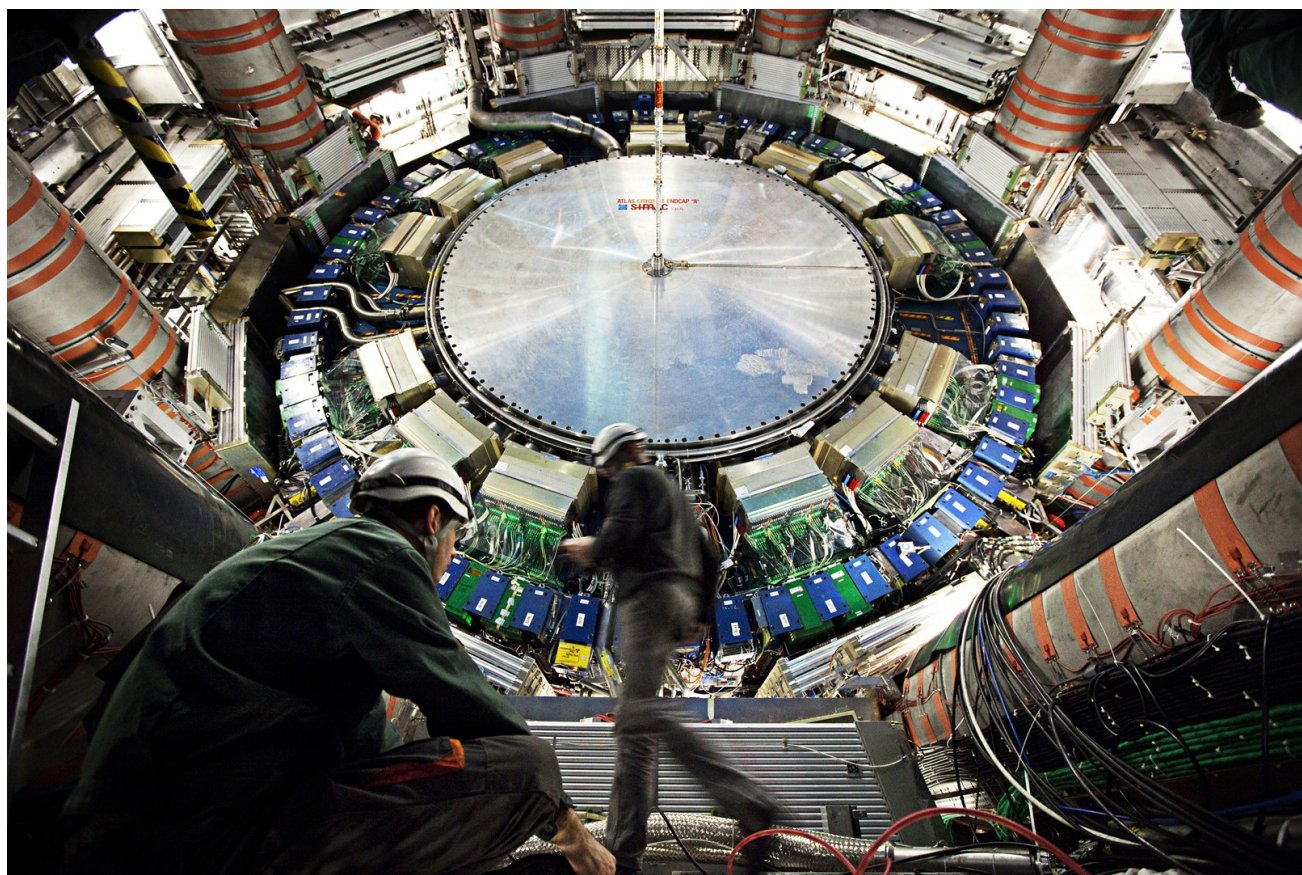
[Sekula, Stephen](#)

[All Sections](#)

Mar 20 at 6:20pm

# Modern Physics Newsletter

## Issue #2 (March 20, 2020)



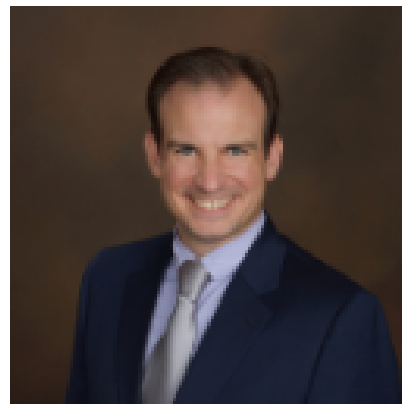
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### Instructor's Corner

As I warned in my previous communications, things are moving fast. To comply with federal, state, and county regulations, SMU will move classes online for the remainder of the semester. I had anticipated this was a strong possibility, so I'll reiterate here the summary of the framework I mentioned in some previous announcements:

1. Exams will move online. The process for this should be fairly clear from the practice Exam 2.
2. Grand Challenge Project presentations will now definitely move entirely online, with teams presenting via Zoom or, if necessary, pre-recording their presentations. We'll evaluate those presentations, ask questions, expect feedback, and then a final assessment will occur based on that.



Otherwise, things move ahead as expected: class periods will now be held online, as will office hours; problem-solving demonstration videos will be available before class period, rather than done during class period, and we'll use time together in digital space to interact about how to setup and solve problems... just like in real space! Homework remains online, as do pre-class quizzes, so we're all set there. I am confident we'll be able to land this plane with few bumps, so long as we communicate and stick together as a class.

Here are my previous announcements outlining the basic ideas and specific frameworks for things like exams and the grand challenge problem.

- "[Update: PHYS 3305 will move entirely online after Spring Break and until about April 6](#)"
- "[Practice Exam 2 Available - Digital Edition!](#)"

You can find SMU's announcement about the policy updates here:

<https://blog.smu.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/2020/03/20/smu-classes-move-online-through-end-of-spring-semester/> (<https://blog.smu.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/2020/03/20/smu-classes-move-online-through-end-of-spring-semester/>)

## What's Up, Doc?

Here's a look at what we're in for in the first week after Spring Break.

- **Tuesday, March 24: Virtual Class Period - 12:30-1:50pm (Zoom: <https://smu.zoom.us/j/523751947> (<https://smu.zoom.us/j/523751947>))**
  - **Complete the pre-class quiz on Canvas, as usual.** Nothing changes here.
  - I know that all but one of you are in the US Central Time Zone. If those of you outside this timezone will have a hard time connecting because of the time difference, let me know. **Otherwise, I expect everyone to connect to the Zoom room for attendance credit.**
  - The problem-solving demonstration is already recorded and available in the "[Class Period 17 Participation and Attendance \[WORK\]](#)" assignment, where you will **upload your**



***scratch work after the virtual class period for participation and attendance credit.***

Uploading your work completes your "attendance" credit.

- The ***numerical answers for the virtual class problems can be entered for participation credit*** in a separate Canvas quiz, "[Class Period 17 Participation and Attendance \[NUMERICAL\]](#)".
- The virtual class problems will become available on Canvas in the Files section after 12:30pm US Central Time. The numerical answers and work upload must be completed by 5pm US Central Time.
- I will try using virtual breakout rooms for this class period. If you have students you want to be in a breakout room with (e.g. peers you normally work with), let me know and I'll try to arrange that.
- **Thursday, March 26: Exam 2 - 12:30-1:50pm (Zoom: <https://smu.zoom.us/j/523751947> (<https://smu.zoom.us/j/523751947>))**
  - The Exam will be deployed on Canvas starting at 12:30pm US Central Time ("Exam 2 [NUMERICAL]" and "Exam 2 [WORK]"). Once started, you have 80 minutes to enter all numerical answers. Your accompanying scanned work must be uploaded to the "Exam 2 [WORK]" assignment by 30 minutes after the end of the exam (2:20pm US Central Time).
  - All students must be connected to Zoom for this exam, so I can be available to answer questions, etc. I'll have you divided into virtual breakout rooms, so you can ask me questions without interrupting others taking the exam.
  - The exam will occur as scheduled. If timezone issues will cause problems, let me know in advance.

