TITLE: PLASMA PHYSICS Part I

INSTRUCTOR: T M. Antonsen Jr.
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ROOM: PHY 3301

TIME: TuTh 2:00 - 3:15 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the basic concepts and phenomena of plasma physics. Topics include: Vlasov theory, plasma waves, particle orbits, plasma stability, transport, and nonlinear wave interactions. These topics will be discussed as they apply to laboratory, industrial processing and space plasmas, as well as to relativistic beams.


HOMEWORK: Homework assignments will be given periodically and collected in class

EXAMS: There will be two take home exams

REPORT: Students will make a short report either on their research or on a journal article of their choosing

| Homework: | 30% |
| Report:   | 30% |
| Exam 1: (Tuesday, Oct. 17) | 20% |
| Exam 2: (Thursday, Dec 7) | 20% |
I. Introduction
   A. The plasma state - basic parameters
   B. Ionization processes (brief)
   C. Thermal equilibrium (brief)

II. Vlasov Theory
   A. Heuristic derivation
   B. Properties of solutions
   C. Relation to fluid equations
   D. Derivation from Liouville Equation
   E. Linear electrostatic plasma waves
   F. Landau damping
   G. Two stream and "bump on tail" instability
   H. Particle trapping
      -coherent sources of radiation

III. Strong Magnetic Fields
   A. Particle Orbits
      -magnetic confinement fusion
      -magnetospheres
   B. EM waves in magnetized plasma
      1. Linear
      2. Nonlinear - parametric decay
   C. Magneto-Hydrodynamics
      1. Low frequency waves
      2. Plasma confinement
      3. Plasma currents and self-generated magnetic fields
         -dynamo
         -reconnection

IV. Collisions
   A. Basic collisional scattering
   B. Transport coefficients

VI. Non-neutral plasmas
   A. Charged particle beams
   B. Cold plasma traps