Date: March 27, 2023
To: Physics Students, Faculty and Administrators
From: Prof. Giovanni Ossola, Qualifying Exam Committee Chair
Re: Spring 2023 Physics First Examination

The Physics First Examination (Qualifying Exam) is scheduled to be administered in-person in 2 sessions during the month of May and June 2023. Each session will be a test of 2 subject areas and students will be provided with a time of 2 hours for each subject test, with a 30-minute recess between tests. Please see below for exam dates, times, grading standards, registration instructions, and other essential information.

**Required Subject Tests:** All students are required to take Electromagnetism, Quantum Mechanics and Statistical Mechanics. General track students are required to take Analytical Dynamics. Students in the Photonics track are required to take the Photonics test in lieu of Analytical Dynamics.

**Who Must Take this Exam:** All students who have not passed one or more of the required subject tests as prescribed by their chosen track (see Required Subject Tests) must take this exam. Students who did not pass one or more subject tests in their 2nd or higher attempt must submit an Appeal Letter and a support letter from their advisor to take the spring exam. Appeal documents must be submitted to Daniel Moy, dmoy@gc.cuny.edu on or before April 25, 2023.

**Grading Standards:** Students are provided with two attempts to pass the subject tests. Students will be credited for individually passing a subject test. Students who did not pass one or more subject tests must retake those subjects this spring. Students must file an Appeal Letter if they retake one or more subject tests for their 3rd or more attempt. Appeal Letters must be submitted to Daniel Moy, dmoy@gc.cuny.edu on or before April 25, 2023.

**Grading Protocols:** Subject tests are graded and passed individually. The name of the student is kept hidden during grading. Grades must be approved by the First Examination committee.

**Examination Schedule, Subject Areas & Room Locations**

- **Statistical Mechanics**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
  Session #1, Wednesday, May 31st, rooms #9205, #9206, #9207, #C202 (for CCNY students)

- **Electricity and Magnetism**, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
  Session #2, Wednesday, June 7th, rooms #9205, #9206, #9207, #9100 (Kelly Skylight, for CCNY students)

- **Quantum Mechanics**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
  Session #1, Wednesday, May 31st, rooms #9205, #9206, #9207, #C202 (for CCNY students)

- **Analytical Dynamics or Photonics**, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
  Session #2, Wednesday, June 7th, rooms #9205, #9206, #9207, #9100 (Kelly Skylight, for CCNY students)

**Registration Instructions & Exam Procedures**

To register for this exam, please email Daniel Moy at the Graduate Center’s doctoral Physics Program office: dmoy@gc.cuny.edu. E-mail registration is required. **Registration deadline: Friday, 28 April 2023.**

Upon registration, doctoral students will be assigned a Registration Number and provided with exam instructions. Please note that your Registration Number must be written on all sheets of the exam. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON ANY OF YOUR ANSWER SHEETS.**

**Special Note to City College of New York Master’s Students**

You must request registration and direct all questions to Prof. Timothy Boyer, tboyer@ccny.cuny.edu.

**Useful Links:** Program website, Past Exam Problems and Solutions

Physics homepage: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/physics

Problems and Solutions: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/physics/curriculum-and-degree-information/qualifying-exams