Before Class 0

Patience, thorough reading, and careful thinking are more important to your success in this course and in your future profession than any abilities you may have with physics, math and problem-solving. Resolve right now to read patiently, carefully, and thoroughly—and really think about what you read (don’t just skim or go through the motions).

1. The home page for this course is NOT on Canvas; only announcements and video clips are distributed through Canvas. Here is the URL for the course home page (and be sure to bookmark this):

   http://www.physics.oregonstate.edu/~coffinc/COURSES/ph211

   (And by now you should have already read the Announcements on your Canvas site for this course.
   If you haven’t, go there now. Then return here.)

2. If you haven’t done so already, you may want to take your first visit to Mastering Physics (which is the online resource offered by the textbook publisher—you should have received an access key packaged with your textbook). First, click here for instructions on how to get started (and you’ll find this link is also on page 2 of the Syllabus).

   Once you enter the MP site and find our course (COFFIN - OSU PH 211 - Fall 2018), you’ll see an “assignment” called Before Class 0. (Never mind that it’s called an assignment—no item in MP this term is for credit. It’s all just for practice.) Just browse and get used to the MP site—take their tutorial orientation about the site—whatever you need. Notice the Study Area. Notice also the e-text link: you can read the text online, if you wish! Do the various items as you need to (judge for yourself—both your comfort and ease with the MP site and your basic math skills—get them all warmed up).

3. Before doing much else, you need to take a thorough tour of the web site, starting at the home page. This will take some time, so be patient—it’s a very good investment…. You’ve already seen the FAQs and Syllabus. And the Contact Info link (bottom center) may not be ready until this weekend. It’s simply a list of all the TAs associated with the course (plus me and the Physics Department main office): how and when to contact us, our office hours, etc.

   So click now on the Course Calendar & Assignments link (bottom right).... The Course Calendar is posted as a pdf that shows an overview of the whole term. You’ll want to look at this daily, too, for whenever assignments and other materials are readied and posted (with clickable links), those links will change color on the Calendar:

   - Green links indicate posted Class materials—you’ve already used one of these links to read this Before class 0 file.
   - Purple links indicate posted Lab materials;
   - Blue links indicate posted Prep problem sets and their solutions;
   - Orange links indicate posted homework (HW) assignments and their solutions;
   - Red links indicate Exams-related information and exam solutions.

   Plain black (or grey) text may or may not be a link, but if it’s a link, it’s empty at the moment. Later it will either turn color (if something gets posted there), or it will disappear from the Calendar (i.e. it turned out to be unnecessary).