PHYSICS 611, STATISTICAL MECHANICS, FALL 2000
A. Brooks Harris, 2N30, X8557


RESOURCES I will put a number of collateral texts on reserve and indeed some material from other texts may get scanned in to the web site. See the course syllabus for more details.

COURSE MEETS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 Noon and Tuesday at 11AM in 2C8. The first class is Sep 8 and the last class is Dec. 11. No classes on Oct 16, Oct 17, and Nov 24.

HOMEWORK: Homework assignments will be posted on the web. Homework is perhaps the most important part of this course. The basic ground rule for homework is this: you may discuss with classmates (or me) in general terms, but the specifics must represent your own work. After I get the homeworks, I will distribute solutions.

EXAMS: There will be an hour exam on Nov 3. There will be no final. Instead you will hand in (BY DEC. 8) a research report (Word Processed!!) on a topic (either theoretical or experimental) which I approve. Typical such topics include ”Experimental Probes of Critical Phenomena,” ”Real Space Renormalization Group,” ”Exact Solutions in One Dimensional Systems,” and ”Physics of Negative Temperature.”

OFFICE HOURS: I am almost always available after class and you are welcome to find me in or near my office, 2N30. You can e-mail me at harris@harris.physics.upenn.edu.

E: We are in the age of E-courses. Temporarily I will use my faculty homepage as an entry point to thw course web page.

GRADES: Your grade will be based on three equally weighted inputs, namely homework, the hours exam, and the research paper.