Guidelines for exams and quizzes

When working exams and quizzes in Physics 385-386, please keep the following in mind concerning my grading:

- Show your work. Full credit will not be given for a correct answer if I can’t follow how you arrived at it.
- Be careful not to write vectors as scalars or vice versa. When giving an answer for a vector, be sure to specify the direction (e.g., with a unit vector) as well as magnitude.
- If an answer requires units, points will be taken off if units are not given. You are responsible for knowing the meanings of the standard unit prefactors, e.g., for Watts (W), know the the meaning of $\mu$W, mW, W, kW, MW, and GW. Also know what a cm (centimeter) is.
- Points will be taken off for answers that can really obviously be simplified. For example, “$32\pi/12$” and “$3\pi^2/2\pi$” will lose a point. Similarly, points can be taken off for not reducing crazy units such as $3 \times 10^{-5}$kW/km$^2$.

The following are good pieces of advice for all physics courses:

- Read the question, slowly, twice, before solving. Read it slowly again after you have finished your solution. It is very easy to miss something that you were asked for if you don’t do this.
- Even if you are stuck on early parts (a) or (b) of a problem, you can sometimes do later parts (c...) and get full credit for those parts.
- Check that your answer does not contain quantities that were not specified in the problem statement. For example, if the problem is about an infinite cylinder, you might consider a section of length $h$, but $h$ should cancel out when you write your solution. Also, for a problem about a sphere of radius $R$ with interior charge density $\rho(r) = Ar^2$, your answer could contain $A$ and $R$, but if $r$ appears in your answer it cannot possible be right.
- Where possible, check that the units look reasonable.