

*Instructions for Paper 1*

**Assignment:** Discuss what was “classical” about “classical physics.”

**Due date:** Session 7

**Length:** 4-5 double-spaced pages. You should use standard margins (1-inch to 1.25-inches on each side of the page) and a 12-point font.

**Grade:** Your grade on *Paper 1* will contribute 20% of your final course grade.

For this brief paper, you should analyze what was “classical” about “classical physics,” drawing on sources from the readings as well as from lectures. Classical physics of the 19th and early 20th centuries was more than simply “pre-modern”; it had its own approaches, goals, and values for what counted as good explanations. What were some of these goals and values? What were the objects or domains of study for these physicists? How did real physicists, like the British Maxwellians, or fictional composite figures, like Victor Jakob from *Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist*, pursue their work? These characteristics were not exactly the same for all classical physicists – you might want to consider contrasts between the British and German cases. How was Albert Einstein’s work on special relativity transitional between classical and modern physics?

You should use specific examples from the readings and from lectures. When drawing on readings, use standard footnote conventions, giving full bibliographic information for all sources you cite. Examples of appropriate footnote formats appear in the hand-out, “Footnotes, Bibliographies, and the Good Life,” available in the assignments section.