Lab Reports
The lab reports should contain abstract, background, materials and methods, results, and discussion sections. All sections should be written with complete sentences in paragraph form. Below are descriptions of what should be included in each section. The contribution of each section to the grade for an individual lab report is given in parentheses beside the section name.

Abstract (10%) – 4-6 sentences summarizing the goal of the experiment, the techniques used, the findings and their relevance.

Background (20%) – Section describing why you are doing the particular experiment and providing the context to understand the results. Write this as if you are explaining the experiment to an educated colleague whom has never been exposed to that particular procedure.

Materials and Methods (10%) – Section describing the techniques and procedures used in the particular experiment. Use complete sentences, and write out equations as necessary. If an equation is included, please give an example of a calculation using the equation where you use real numbers. Also be sure to include any deviations from the original procedure.

Results (30%) – Section describing your observations. Any tables and figures reported in this section must include legends that describe the information contained in the table or figure and how you interpret the data reported therein.

Discussion (30%) – Section describing your interpretations of the results of the experiment. Explain what the results mean and what you conclude from them. Be sure to explain your reasoning for drawing your particular conclusions. There should also be a references section at the end of your discussion.