# **Instrument Pilot Ground School**

Instructor:	
Email:	
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## **Course Objective**

To provide the student with maximum academic and ground training in order to safely exercise the privileges of a instrument pilot rating and to meet the prerequisites to take the Instrument Knowledge Test.

## **Completion Standards**

The course will be complete when the student has demonstrated through stage examinations, quizzes, and a final examination that they are able to meet the requirements to take and pass the Instrument Rating Knowledge Test and safely exercise the privileges of an Instrument pilot.

## **Course Overview**

The Instrument Ground School course is designed to prepare the student to pass the instrument written and oral examinations. The course will be taught in a lecture format aided by the use of PowerPoint presentations. Students are expected to attend ground school daily, take notes, and participate in class discussions.

### **Course Materials**

## Required Books

- 2011 FAR/AIM
- Instrument Flying Handbook
- Instrument Procedures Handbook
- Aviation Weather
- Weather Services
- Instrument Practical Test Standards

#### Recommended Books

- Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
- Airplane Flying Handbook

#### Other Materials

- Flight Computer
- AFD
- Low Altitude En-route Chart
- Instrument Approach Charts
- IFR Plotter

## **Policies and Procedures**

## **Exams and Tests**

There are 4 quizzes during this course equaling **16**% of your total score. Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis and will cover the material introduced during that week. More quizzes may be given at the discretion of the ground school instructor/manager. An 80% or higher grade on the quizzes is not required, but the quiz grades will be used when calculating the final, cumulative grade, which must be an 80% or higher to pass the course.

During this course there are 3 Stage exams worth 48% of your total score and one final exam worth 32% of your total score. Exams will be given when all the material from that stage has been covered and will only include the material from that particular stage. The final exam will be cumulative covering all material learned throughout the entire course. All exams must be passed with a score of 80% or higher for the student to be given credit for the course. This means that if the student does not get an 80% on any one of the tests, they must retake the course.

However, for the stage exams the student is given the opportunity to retake the test. The retake will be similar to the first test but will not be the same. If the student passes the retake exam with an 80% or higher, his/her score will be averaged with the first exam (Example: Exam 1 score: 70%, Retake exam 1 score: 90%: equals an average of 80%). If the student does not pass the test the second time, the student will have to retake the course. There is no retest given for the final exam. The student must pass the final exam with an 80% the first time to pass the course.

## Grading

Quizzes, exams and homework will be graded by either the class instructor or the Chief Ground Instructor and those grades will be tracked throughout the course. **The student must make a cumulative grade of 80% in order to pass the class**. If the student's cumulative grade for the course does not add up to 80%, they must retake the course.

#### **Assignments**

There are 8 homework assignments given throughout the course. You are expected to complete all homework. Your homework grade is worth 4% of your total score. If you receive credit for all homeworks given, then your homework score is 100%. Homework is due on the date designated by the instructor. LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

#### Attendance

100 % attendance is required to pass the class! Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If the student is not present when attendance is taken, that student will be marked as being absent for the day. Any missed days of class must be rescheduled and completed at an additional cost to the student. Those who miss more than three days of class will be removed from the course. These students will have the option to retake the course at their own

expense. There are zero unexcused absences. If you are going to be absent, it must be prearranged and approved by both the Chief Ground Instructor and the Group Manager.

Students may be given additional credit based on attendance. Those who have 100 % attendance may be given 5 bonus points at the end of the course to be added to their final, cumulative grade.

## **Class Participation**

Students are expected to participate during class discussions. In order to adequately contribute to the discussions students should complete all homework and reading assignments before the beginning of each day's class.

#### **FAA Written Examinations**

At the beginning of the course students will be scheduled to take the written examination beginning on the day after completion of the course. Endorsements for the test will be given by the ground school manager upon successful completion of the final examination as outline above. Students must be present on the day designated by the ground school manager after the completion of the ground school course in order to receive their endorsement. Students are required to take the test on the day and time that they are scheduled. If the student requests to reschedule their examination for any reason, they must meet with the ground school manager the day before they are to take the exam.

A student who fails a FAA written exam will be required to spend at least two hours receiving remedial training from the ground school manager or an appointed instructor. Following the remedial training the student will be given 3 mock FAA exams which must be passed with a score of 90% or higher to be authorized to retake the FAA written exam. If they do not receive a score of 90% or higher on three consecutive practice exams then they will be required to meet with the ground school manager to receive further training. **Do not let this happen to you!** 

	LESSON	SUBJECT	TIME
WEEK 1	1	Course Overview; Expectations of an instrument rating; Flight physiology	4 HOUR
	2	Knowledge of flight instrument systems	4 HOUR
	3	Attitude instrument flying skills; Airport operations; The National Airspace System	4 HOUR
	4	IFR navigation systems	4 HOUF
	5	Applicable Federal Aviation Regulations for IFR flight operations; Appropriate information in the Aeronautical Information Manual;	4 HOUF
WEEK 2	6	Stage 1 Exam	2 HOUF
	7	Holding procedures as appropriated by the Aeronautical Information Manual; The air traffic control system and procedures for IFR operations	4 HOU
	8	μses of departure charts and departure procedures	4 HOU
	9	Use of IFR Enroute and Area Charts	4 HOU
	10	Use of Arrival Charts and procedures	4 HOUI
WEEK 3	11	Flight planning procedures as appropriated by the Federal Aviation Regulations for IFR operations	4 HOUI
	12	Use of Instrument Approach Procedure Charts	4 HOUI
	13	Use of non-precision instrument approach navigation systems	4 HOUI
	14	Use of precision instrument approach navigation systems	4 HOUI
	15	Stage 2 Exam	2 HOUI
WEEK 4	16	Recognition of critical weather situations on the ground and in flight and windshear avoidance	4 HOUI
	17	Procurement and use of aviation weather reports and forecasts; Aeronautical Decision Making and judgment; Crew Resource Management to include crew communication and coordination Safe and efficient operation of aircraft under IFR conditions	4 HOUI
	18	Stage 3 Exam	2 HOUI
	19	Course Review	4 HOU
	20	End of Course Final Exam	2 HOUI

72 Total Hours

# **Aviation Physiology**

Stage 1- Lesson 1

Materials: Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge, Chapter 16

**Objective:** Familiarize the student with aviation physiology, its importance, and how it

affects instrument flight.

Completion

**Standards:** The student will indicate, through oral quizzing, familiarity with the topics

discussed as they apply to aviation physiology.

**Content:** 

## **Course Overview and Expectations**

**Hypoxia** Definition

Symptoms

Types of Hypoxia

- Hypoxic Hypoxia
  - Definition
  - Percentage of Oxygen vs.
     Atmospheric Pressure
  - Oxygen Saturation
  - o Time of Useful Conciousness
- Hypemic Hypoxia
  - o Definition
  - o Causes
    - CO Poisoning
  - Effect of Altitude on Hypemic
    - Hypoxia
  - Smoking
- Stagnant Hypoxia
  - o Definition
- Histotoxic Hypoxia
  - o Definition

• Prevention of Hypoxia

## Hyperventilation

Definition

**Symptoms** 

**Triggers** 

**Alleviating Symptoms** 

#### Disorientation

Three Sources of Awareness

- Vision
- Vestibular System
- Kinesthetic Sense
  - Definition
  - o Unreliability

## Susceptibility

- Fatigue
- Anxiety
- Workload

**Symptoms** 

Lightheadedness

Dizziness

The Importance of Trusting Instruments

## **Spatial Disorientation**

Definition

#### **Visual Illusions**

## **Vestibular Disorientation**

Definition

- Vestibular System
- Vestibular Illusions

How the Vestibular System is Affected in Flight

#### **Motion Sickness**

**Symptoms** 

**Overcoming Motion Sickness** 

### **Stress**

**Positive Stress** 

**Negative Effects of Stress** 

Stress During Flight

Life Stressors

## **Fatigue**

Definition

Fatigue and Flying

Overcoming Fatigue

- Can't be taught
- The importance of rest

## **Alcohol and Drugs**

**OTC Medication** 

- Side Effects of Drugs
- Role of an Aviation Medical Examiner

#### Alcohol

- Impairment of Function
- Risk
- FAR Rules
  - o 8 hours
  - 0 .04%

## **Decompression Sickness**

Definition

Scuba Diving

- Nitrogen
- Scuba Diving and Flying Rules

**Rapid Decompression** 

# **Fitness for Flight**

The

**IMSAFE Checklist** 

- Illness
- Medication
- Stress
- Alcohol
- Fatigue
- Eating/Emotion

## **Night Flight**

**Night Vision** 

- Night Visual Illusions
- Night Landing Illusions

**Assignment:** Read the Instrument Flying Handbook Chapter 3, pages 3-1 through 3-37 in preparation for Lesson 2, Knowledge of Flight Instrument Systems.

# **Knowledge of Flight Instrument Systems**

### Stage 1- Lesson 2

Materials: Instrument Flying Handbook Chapter 3

**Objective:** Gain a working knowledge of the function and use of the flight instrument

component and systems; become familiar with the limitations and common

errors of the flight instrument systems and components.

Completion

Standards: Demonstrate understanding of IFR instrument requirements as well as

instrument flight systems, instrument operations, and instrument errors during

oral quizzing by instructor at completion of lesson.

**Content:** 

## **Flight Instruments**

The 6 primary flight instruments
Instruments and equipment required for
IFR flight

#### **Pitot – Static Instruments**

Pitot Tube

• Explanation and Purpose

Static Port

• Explanation and Purpose

Airspeed Indicator

- Purpose
- How it Works
- Airspeeds
  - Indicated
  - Calibrated
  - o Equivalent
  - o True
  - Mach
  - Where and how to find each
  - Errors
  - Instrument Check

Altimeter

- Purpose
- Sensitive altimeter definition
- How it works
- Types of Altitude
  - Indicated
  - Calibrated
  - o Pressure
  - Density
  - o True
  - Absolute
- Where and how to find each
- Altimeter Setting
  - Effect of not using the local altimeter setting
- Areas of high vs. low pressure and temperature
- Instrument Check

**Vertical Speed Indicator** 

- Purpose
  - o Rate Information
  - Trend Information
- How it works

• Instrument Check

**System Errors** 

- Pitot Blockade
  - Affect on the airspeed indicator
- Static Blockade
  - Affect on all pitot-static instruments
  - Corrective actions

## **Magnetic Compass**

**Purpose** 

**Errors** 

- Variation
- Deviation
- Magnetic Dip
  - Northerly Turning Error (UNOS)
  - Acceleration/Deceleration Error (ANDS)
- Oscillation

**Instrument Check** 

# **Gyroscopic Flight Instruments**

Rigidity in Space

- Definition
- Gimbals

Precession

- Definition
- Demonstration

Vacuum System

Attitude Indicator

- Purpose
- How it works
  - Pendulous Vanes
- Errors
  - o Turns
  - Acceleration and Deceleration
- Instrument Tumbling

**Heading Indicator** 

- Purpose
- How it works
- Errors

**Turn Indicators** 

- Purpose
- Calculating a standard rate turn
- The 2 types
  - o Turn and Slip Indicator
  - o Turn Coordinator
- Inclinometer
  - Slips and Skids

**Instrument Checks** 

## **Analog Pictorial Displays**

HSI

**Integrated Flight Control Systems** 

Autopilot

## **Integrated Displays**

**Explanation and Definition** 

How it works

**Primary Flight Displays** 

- Definition
- Purpose

Multifunction Display

- Definition
- Components
  - Moving Map
    - Terrain
    - Charts
    - Weather
    - Traffic
    - Lightning Strikes
- Systems Page
  - Checklists

Malfunctions and Failures

• Limited Failures

• Major Failures

- Electrical Failures
- Corrective Actions

Assignment: Read the Instrument Flying Handbook Chapter 4, Section I and Chapter 5, Section

1, in preparation for Lesson 3, Attitude Instrument Flying Skills.

# **Attitude Instrument Flying Skills**

Stage 1- Lesson 3

Materials: Instrument Flying Handbook; Chapter 4, Section 1 and Chapter 5, Section 1

**Objectives:** 

Review the basic principles of attitude instrument flying, including the fundamental procedures related to instrument cross-check, instrument interpretation, and aircraft control; gain a working knowledge of the instrument cockpit check; become familiar with the instrument system failures and partial panel flight procedures.

## Completion

**Standards:** 

Demonstrate understanding of basic attitude instrument flying during oral quizzing by instructor; exhibit knowledge of partial panel instrument flight procedures.

#### Content:

## **Attitude Instrument Flying Concepts**

**Control and Performance Concept** 

- Control Instruments
- Performance Instruments
- Navigation Instruments
- Applying Control and Performance

## Primary/Support Concept

- Pitch Instruments
- Bank Instruments
- Power Instruments

#### **Fundamental Skills**

**Instrument Cross Check** 

- Scanning Techniques
  - Hub and Spoke
  - Racetrack
  - Inverted V
- Frequent Errors
  - Fixation
  - Omission
  - Emphasis

Instrument Interpretation

Aircraft Control

## **Basic Flight Maneuvers**

Straight and Level Flight

- Primary Instruments/Supporting Instruments
- Pitch/Bank/Power Control
- Common Errors

#### Climbs

- Constant Airspeed Climbs
  - o Cruise and Vx, Vy Climbs
  - Primary/Supporting Instruments
- Constant Rate Climbs
  - Primary/Supporting Instruments

#### Descents

- Constant Airspeed Descents
- Constant Rate Descents

Level-Off

Climb/Descent Common Errors

**Standard Rate Turns** 

- Primary/Supporting Instruments
- Pitch/Bank/Power Control

Steep Turns

Climbing and Descending Turns
Common Errors in Turns
Approach to Stall

## **Coping With Instrument Failure**

Identifying an Instrument Failure

- Vacuum System Failure
- Single Instrument Failure
  - Attitude Indicator Failure
  - Heading Indicator Failure

# **Partial Panel Flying**

What to do if instruments fail Straight and Level Flight Turns

**Compass Turns** 

• UNOS rule

**Timed Turns** 

• 3 degrees per second rule Climbs and Descents

Pitot Static Instrument Failures

## **Unusual Attitude Recovery**

**Recognizing Unusual Attitudes** 

Nose – High Attitude

Power/Pitch/Bank

Nose – Low Attitude

Power/Bank/Pitch

Common Errors Partial Panel

**Assignment:** The student should read the Instrument Flying Handbook Chapter 5 in preparation for Lesson 4 over IFR Navigation Systems.

# **IFR Navigation Systems**

Stage 1- Lesson 4

Materials: Instrument Flying Handbook Chapter 7

**Objectives:** Learn the function, use, and limitations of VOR, DME, and ADF radio equipment

for navigation. Become familiar with other types of instrument navigation

including RNAV and GPS.

Completion

**Standards:** Demonstrate understanding of the use and limitations of navigation systems

during oral quizzing by instructor at completion of lesson.

#### **Content:**

## **ADF Navigation**

Compass Locators

Relative Bearings, Magnetic Bearings,

Magnetic Headings

Radio Magnetic Indicators

Intercepting a bearing

Tracking

Time and distance to a station

- Formula Method (same as VOR)
- Flight Computer Method

Station Passage

## **VOR Navigation**

Horizontal Situation Indicators (HSI)

Tracking

Intercepting a Radial

Time and distance to a station

- Formula Method
- Flight Computer Method

Station Passage

## **Operational Considerations**

**Ground Facilities** 

- VOR Frequencies and Ranges
- NDB Frequencies and ranges

#### **VOR Checks**

**VOR Test Facilities** 

- How to perform
- Allowable Error

**VOR Checkpoints** 

- How to perform
- Allowable Error

**Dual System Check** 

- How to perform
- Allowable Error

## **Distance Measuring Equipment**

Types of Navaids with DME

Operation

**Slant Range Distance** 

**DME Arcs** 

- Use
- Flying a DME Arc
- Correcting for a Crosswind

## **Area Navigation**

- RNAV Definition
- Benefits of RNAV
- Use of Waypoints
  - VOR Stations
  - Lat. and Long. Coordinates
- Required Navigation Performance (RNP)

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