

# PHY 300 Physics Seminar

## Syllabus

Instructor: ***Sheng-Chiang (John) Lee***

WSC 114, 478-301-2599

Office Hours: by appointments

Pre-requisite: 162

Textbook: No Textbook Required

### ***Course Description:***

Physics seminar is a weekly one-hour seminar, given by Mercer faculty members, invited speakers, and students. The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize students with current topics and advancement in disciplines of science and engineering, as well as giving students opportunities to practice giving scientific presentations. Students are expected to write a summary report for each seminar, and each student will give a 50 minute seminar.

### ***Objectives:***

After taking this course, you are expected to

- Be able to intellectually engage in a professional presentation.
- Be able to summarize what you learn from a brief seminar.
- Be able to present a science-related topic and carry out intellectual conversations professionally.

### ***Grading Methods:***

Grading Scale:

Score:	90+	85~89	80~84	75~79	70~74	60~69	59-
Grade:	A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

Grading Components:

	Summary Reports	Presentations (100 pts = 60%)			
		Office visit	Organization of your talk	Understanding of materials	Engaging audience
Weight	40%	10 pts	30 pts	40 pts	20 pts

### ***Summary Reports:***

You will write a summary for each seminar presentation. Summaries should be ~ 300 words, and should summarize the talk, including definitions of new terminologies and discussion of the talk. I understand that it might be difficult for you to do this for some talks because you're not familiar with the subjects. What is asked of you is to summarize what you understand and learn from the talk, and even discuss your questions. Summaries will be graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). Summaries not received on time will get Unsatisfactory grade.

You should submit your summaries electronically via e-mails to me in double-spaced text files, word documents, or PDF documents. Summaries are due by 4pm on Tuesday of the following week.

### ***Presentations:***

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Each student will give a presentation in the Physics Seminar during the semester. The presentation should be at least 30 minutes, plus time for questions and discussion. Its grading components are as described above and subject to the instructor's judgment. You are free to choose the topic for your presentation, but it is subject to the instructor's approval. The topic may be your current research or something related to science. You should visit the instructor at least two weeks before your talk to discuss the topic and one week before to discuss the organization of your talk. An outline/abstract is required prior to the Friday before your presentation.

### ***Important Dates:***

**Last Day for Course Withdrawal: 10/31!!!!**

### ***Class Policies:***

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absence will result in Unsatisfactory grade.

**Class Etiquette:** You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful manner to your fellow classmates and the instructor. The instructor may ask you to leave the classroom/lab if your behavior is disturbing to the instructor or other students.

**Honor Code:** You are bound by the Mercer honor code. The College's academic misconduct policy will be followed. All work, for which a grade is received, must be the **original** work of the **student** without aid or assistance of another party, or any printed and or electronic data/information. Academic misconduct cases will be referred to the honor council and the student will automatically receive a grade of incomplete (IC) pending a ruling by the honor council.

**Cell Phone and Pager Usage:** Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom, lab, or formal academic or performance event.

**Documented Disability Statement:** Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting. The instructor will refer you to the office of Student Support Services (SSS) for consultation regarding evaluation, documentation of your disability, and recommendations for accommodation, if needed. Students will receive from SSS the *Faculty Accommodation Form*. On this form SSS will identify reasonable accommodations for this class. The form must be given to the course instructor for signature and then returned to SSS.

To take full advantage of disability services, it is recommended that students contact the Office of Student Support Services, immediately. The office is located on the third floor of the Connell Student Center.