

Physics Seminar
 PHY 300 --- Spring 2002 Syllabus
 Physics Department --- Mercer University

Regular Meetings: W 4:30-5:30pm, WSC 109
Other Meetings: as required in place of the regular meetings...
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office hours: MTWRF 3-4pm, or by appointment, or try your luck anytime...
 See Physics Department home page at <http://physics.mercer.edu>.

This course is the seminar component of the physics major program. (Two semesters of PHY 300 are required for a BA or BS in physics.) Pre-requisite is the two-semester sequence PHY 161/161L & 162/162L General Physics I & II, which is a calculus-based introduction to physics, with accompanying labs. Students will learn about a variety of physics and related topics. In addition, they will become familiar with scientific seminars, and will deliver a seminar themselves. Although this course is designed primarily for physics students, it is also recommended for others interested in physical science, especially chemistry, mathematics, and engineering majors.

Attendance (70% of the total grade): There will be about fourteen seminar meetings, each about one hour long. All students are expected to attend every meeting. In addition, each student is expected to be fully engaged in the seminar. They should pay attention to the speaker, think about the information being presented, and interact with the speaker and the rest of the audience, by asking questions and taking part in discussion. For each meeting, each student will receive a grade:

- 0 Student was absent.
- 1 Student was present but fell asleep.
- 2 Student stayed awake, but zombie-like.
- 3 Student was awake and alert, but non-interacting.
- 4 Student was present and fully engaged in the seminar.

Presentation (30% of the total grade): Each student must make a presentation to the physics seminar during the semester. This will be a talk of at least 30 minutes, followed by discussion. The topic will be chosen by the student, subject to instructor approval. This may be a topic which is new to the student and is chosen purely for this purpose. Alternately, the seminar may be a report on the student's current or previous research work. There is no requirement for a written report to accompany the presentation.

Grading: How much weight is given to each activity, in percentages of the final grade, is shown in the left table below. The final grade will be determined using the scale shown in the right table below.

	#	% each	total %
Attendance	~14	~5	70
Presentation	1	30	30
Total			100

	GP	%
A	4	90-100
B+	3.5	85-89
B	3	80-84
C+	2.5	75-79
C	2	70-74
D	1	60-69
F	0	0-59

Miscellaneous policies:

1. All parts of this syllabus are tentative and subject to revision.
2. Absences for which no alternate arrangements were made *beforehand* may be made up only if the student has an official excuse: e.g., a note from a Dean's office, or a doctor's note.
3. The College of Liberal Arts' academic misconduct policy will be followed. In addition, all students are bound by the Mercer University Honor Code.
4. Students who believe that they possess disabilities for which reasonable accommodation is required must so inform the instructor *at the close of their first class meeting*. They must then identify their disability and the accommodation requested. The instructor will refer them to the office of the Dean of Students for evaluation, documentation of their disability, and a recommendation as to the accommodation, if any, to be provided. Students who do NOT consult with the instructor and follow up at the office of the Dean of Students, as provided above, will thereby waive any claim to a disability and the right to any accommodation pertaining thereto.

5. All requests for reasonable accommodation are welcome also in regard to absence from class for school representation (i.e., athletic or other events) or personal/family problems. *Let's talk about it...*