

## **Physics 341 – Seminar in Physics Spring 2014**

### **About the course**

This goal of this course is to train students in preparing and delivering oral presentations. Presenting your scientific work requires preparation and care. Like most things, the skills involved in preparing and delivering oral presentations can be improved with practice. In this course you will prepare and deliver three presentations. You will also critique your own presentations as well as those of your classmates. By the end of the class, you should be better prepared to design and present scientific work to an audience.

### **Coursework**

You are required to give three presentations. These presentations should be targeted for an audience having the level of knowledge of a competent junior physics major. Your presentation will be graded based upon the content and design of the talk as well as the quality of the presentation.

1. Your first presentation will be about An experiment you completed in Sophomore lab or analyt lab. This talk will be 10 minutes long with 2 additional minutes for questions. You may NOT present on the experiment you presented for the sophomore lab final.
2. The second presentation will be about a journal article from *Scientific American*, *Physics Today* or *Physics Teacher* published since 1980. This talk must focus on the **physics** content and information in the article. This talk will be 12 minutes long with 2 additional minutes for questions.
3. The third presentation will be about a successful experiment that you did. This may be an experiment you worked on in a Summer REU, a research lab with a faculty member, a directed study, or for example in Intermediate Lab (Phys 362). This talk will be 15 minutes long with 3 additional minutes for questions.

**NOTE 1:** For all talks, your presentation topic must be approved by me prior to making your presentation.

**NOTE 2:** More details specific to each presentation will be provided as needed.

You will also be required to critique each presentation given by each of your classmates. Your critiques of others will be graded based upon your ability to support your critique with evidence. Your comments will be given to the presenter anonymously to provide constructive criticism. Your critiques of others will be evaluated based on helpfulness and professionalism.

For each presentation, you will receive a video recording of your presentation and be required to critique your talk. You will meet with me individually after each talk to discuss your talk and your critiques. Your self-evaluation and interview will be evaluated based upon the relevance of your self-evaluation to improving your presentation skills and your response to constructive criticism.

**NOTE 3:** Critique of your peers is an important element of this class both for you and your peers. If you miss class, you irrevocably lose some of these opportunities. This will result in an automatic penalty of 5% from your grade.

Finally, you are required to submit critiques for at least three of the colloquium speakers during the course of the semester.

### **Grading:**

15%	First Presentation
25%	Second Presentation
50%	Third Presentation
10%	Critique of Colloquium Speakers

For each presentation, your grade will be determined by

10%	The quality of your self evaluation
20%	The quality and constructiveness of your critiques of your peers
70%	The quality of your presentation, as evaluated by me and your peers