

PHYS 1990 (Introductory Physics Seminar) Course Syllabus

University of Georgia, Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Craig Wiegert

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Times and Locations

Class: Wednesdays, 2:30–3:20 PM (period 7), Room 302 Physics Building

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Objectives

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce you to a wide variety of current research topics in physics and astronomy. You will learn how basic physical principles and models underlie many fields of science.

Course Structure and Topics

The course will be a mixture of presentations by the instructor or guest researchers, reports by students on homework assignments, and general discussion. There will be short weekly reading assignments on a variety of topics, with most of the reading material coming from recent issues of journals such as *Physics Today*, *American Journal of Physics*, *American Scientist*, *Scientific American*, and others. Students will be asked to write about and/or present on the reading.

This is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Grading

This course is graded on an Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale. Students will earn a “Satisfactory” grade for regular attendance, active participation in discussion, and satisfactory completion of the homework assignments.

Since class participation is an integral part of the course, a student will earn an “Unsatisfactory” grade for missing more than three of the weekly classes.

Academic Honesty

The University of Georgia has a comprehensive policy on academic honesty, described in a document entitled *A Culture of Honesty*. This document is available through the Office of the Vice President for Instruction or online at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>. You are responsible for knowing and understanding this policy.