

Physics 8950
Current Topics in Physics
(Physics Journal Club)
Fall 2022
Syllabus

Course Logistics:

Class Time: Mondays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm (periods 4 & 5)
We will have our first class in room 204B in the Physics Building
and our later classes in room 322 (the CSP Conference Room)

Instructor: Dr. Robin Shelton
Room 306A in the Physics Building

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Goal:

This course is designed to teach presentation skills and familiarize students with some current topics in physics and astronomy.

Course Content:

During the semester, each student will make 3 presentations. They are:

- 1.) a sample slide,
- 2.) a 20 minute “short talk about a specific question”, and
- 3.) a 40 minute talk about a research article in a professional journal (i.e., a “journal club” presentation).

Getting Feedback Before Your Journal Club Presentation:

So that I can warn you away from papers that would be difficult to give journal club talks on and so that I can try to head off potential problems with your journal club presentations, send me the reference to your journal club paper at least 14 days before your scheduled talk and send or show me a complete rough draft of your journal club presentation at least 3 days before your scheduled talk.

Attendance and Participation:

Part of taking this class is being a good audience for other students’ talks. So, if there are any talks scheduled for a given day, then you should come to the class, pay attention, be respectful of the speaker(s), and, ask at least 1 question per presentation. You will also be asked to write comments about other students’ presentations. Try to be constructive, insightful, and useful.

Schedule:

Day	Date	meet at	Activity
Monday	August 22	11:30am	Introduction
Monday	August 29	"	Sample slide assignment due + Discussion
<i>Monday</i>	<i>September 5</i>		<i>Labor Day</i>
Monday	September 12	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	September 19	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	September 26	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	October 3	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	October 10	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	October 17	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	October 24	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	October 31	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	November 7	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	November 14	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	November 21	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	November 28	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Monday	December 5	"	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Friday	December 9	noon	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk
Wednesday	December 14	noon	Short Talk on Specific Question + Journal Club talk

Grading:

Sample Slide: 5%

Short Talk on Specific Question: 25% (made up of 20% for the presentation, 5% for your answers during the question and answer period)

Journal Club Presentation: 50% (made up of 3% for sending article reference on time, 10% for the quality of the full rough draft and sending it on time, 32% for the presentation, 5% for your answers during the question and answer period)

Attendance and Participation: 20% (note that more than 1 non-emergency absence or non-emergency extremely late arrival or early departure to/from class will result in a -5% contribution to the overall course grade, per such event.)

	A = 90.00 to 100.00	A- = 88.00 to 89.99
B+ = 85.00 to 87.99	B = 80.0 to 84.99	B- = 78.00 to 79.99
C+ = 75.00 to 77.99	C = 70.0 to 74.99	C- = 68.00 to 69.99
	D = 58.00 to 67.99	
	F = below 58.00	

Revisions:

The syllabus may be revised in the future.