

# PHYSICS 307: SEMINAR IN PHYSICS

FALL 2016

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## INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Q. Su  
Moulton Hall 312A  
Phone: 438-5392  
Email: qcsu@ilstu.edu  
Class: T 4–4:50 pm  
Office hours: walk in, or by appointment

**TEXT** none

## OBJECTIVES

In this class we will discuss techniques of oral and written scientific communication, focusing on current topics in physics.

## FORMAT

This class consists of discussing what makes a good scientific talk and attending colloquium talks from selected speakers. In the end of the semester each student is asked to make a presentation. Topics on career planning will be discussed as well.

## GRADING

The final grade will be based on your performance in the following assignments.

Homework (drop lowest)	20 %
Colloquium report (drop lowest)	34 %
Colloquium lunch/video taping	6 %
Presentation	20 %
Colloquium essay	20 %

The boundaries for letter grades are  $A \geq 90\%$ ,  $B \geq 80\%$ ,  $C \geq 70\%$ ,  $D \geq 60\%$ . Assignments should be completed independently.

## HOMEWORK

No late assignments will be accepted, however, the lowest homework score will be dropped to account for any unforeseen absences. Typed homework is expected.

## PRESENTATION

Each student will prepare and give an oral presentation. This presentation must be oriented for a general audience, and the topic must be approved by the instructor. A typical talk should last approximately 15 minutes.

## **REPORT**

Following each colloquium, a written summary will be required. Details regarding the contents of this summary and a sample will be provided in class. The lowest report score will be dropped to account for any unforeseen absences.

## **COLLOQUIUM ESSAY**

A five-page essay about a colloquium talk is due at the end of the semester. Typed homework is expected.

## **ATTENDANCE**

This course relies heavily on attendance and participation. Regular and punctual attendance is expected during every class meeting.

## **POSSIBLE TOPICS**

Below is a list of possible topics and a tentative schedule.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
(1)	introduction, element of a scientific talk
(2)	sample talks
(3)	more sample talks and report
(4)	career planning: resume
(5)	career planning: interview
(6)	colloquium
(7)	colloquium
(8)	colloquium
(9)	colloquium
(10)	colloquium
(11)	colloquium
(12)	colloquium
(13)	colloquium
(14)	Thanksgiving week break
(15)	presentations
(16)	summary

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Academic integrity is an important part of this University and this course. Students are expected to be honest in all academic work, and a student's placement of his or her name on any academic exercise shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought, effort, and study. Students who have questions regarding issues of academic dishonesty should refer to the Code of Student Conduct, B1, which outlines unacceptable behaviors in academic matters. In certain circumstances (such as cheating or plagiarism), I may be required to refer a student to Community Rights and Responsibilities for a violation of Illinois State University's Code of Student Conduct.