

Syllabus for PHYS 1310

Undergraduate Seminar

Spring 2018

Course Information

CRN 15819
Location Allen Hall 106
Time Wednesday 12:00 – 12:50 pm

Instructor Russell J. Clark, Ph.D.
email ruc2@pitt.edu
Phone 412-624-9204
Office OEH 404
Office hours Monday: 9:30am – 10:30am
Tuesday: 7:00am – 8:00am
Wednesday: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Thursday: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Friday: 11:00am – 12:00pm
Other times by appointment: <http://tinyurl.com/Russell-Clark-Appointments>

Course Objectives

Basically, this class is intended to help you see the bigger picture. Most of the courses that you have taken so far as a Physics and Astronomy major have focused on developing analytical problem solving skills, or lab skills. However, communication is also important whether it be in the form of peer reviewed articles, posters, talks, or engaging with your peers. The writing intensive course in the major that you are required to take will help you to develop your writing skills, and this course will focus on the other means of communication. In addition, invited speakers to the class will encourage you to think about your path beyond graduation.

- Develop communication skills by preparing and presenting a talk on a topic in physics and/or astronomy.
- Develop communication skills by preparing and presenting a poster on a topic in physics and/or astronomy.
- Learn to engage your peers by participating in class discussions on various topics.
- Learn about career opportunities available to Physics and Astronomy majors.
- Learn about the process of applying to graduate school.

Course Requirements

The following are requirements for the course.

- ✓ You must complete all the assignments and activities by the assigned dates.
- ✓ You must participate in all class discussions and activities.

Schedule¹

01Date	Location	Topic or Activity	Description
01-10-18	AH 106	Introduction Activity	Introduction and an activity to select groups and topics for the presentations
01-17-18	AH 106	Emily Bennett	Career Development and Placement Center
01-24-18	AH 106	Class Discussion	Elements of a good presentation
01-31-18	AH 106	Erika Tatrai	School of Education
02-07-18	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
02-14-18	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
02-21-18	AH 321	Lecture	Emil Sanielevici Undergraduate Research Lecture
02-28-18	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
03-07-18		Spring Break	
03-14-18	AH 106	Class Discussion Presentations	Elements of a good poster Student presentations
03-21-18	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations Submit posters for printing
03-28-18 Mandatory	O'Hara Student Center Ballroom	Undergraduate Poster Session	Poster presentations
04-04-18	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
04-11-18	AH 106	Dr. Robert Devaty	Graduate Admissions
04-18-18	AH 106	Class Discussion Presentations	End of Semester Summary Student presentations

Grading

Assignment	Description	Points
Attendance	Attend each of the class sessions. Note that you can skip one or two sessions, but attendance for certain class sessions is mandatory.	280 (20 each)
Participation	You will receive 6 points for each class in which you contribute to the discussion. The maximum for the semester is 60 points.	60 (6 each)
Presentation	Give a single or group presentation followed by a short class discussion.	280
Poster	Prepare and present a poster at the Undergraduate Poster Session on March 28 th .	280
		900

¹ Schedule is subject to change.

The maximum number of points for the semester is 900. Letter grades will be assigned according to minimum cutoffs in the table below.

Grade	Points	
A+	873	97%
A	810	90%
B	720	80%
C	630	70%
D	540	60%

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Academic Integrity

Take time to read the information on “Academic Integrity” and be sure that you understand your responsibilities under the guidelines set out for The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, which are spelled out in full at <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>.

Statement on Classroom Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.