

Syllabus

PHYS 1310 - Undergraduate Seminar

Fall 2020

Course Information

CRN	31551
Location	OEH 402 (https://pitt.zoom.us/j/99214283053 , password 31551)
Time	Wednesday 12:10 – 1:00 pm
Instructor	Russell J. Clark, Ph.D.
Email	ruc2@pitt.edu
Phone	412-624-9204
Office	OEH 404 (https://pitt.zoom.us/j/7744079497)
Office hours	Monday: 3:00pm – 4:00pm Wednesday: 9:00am – 10:00am Thursday: 12:00pm – 1:00pm Friday: 9:00am – 10:00am

Office hours will be conducted by Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Other times by appointment: <https://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2150061337>

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 either synchronously or asynchronously.

Schedule¹

Date	Location	Topic or Activity	Description
08/19	Zoom Meeting	Introduction Activity	Introduction and ice-breaker
08/26	OEH 402 + Zoom	Class Discussion	Elements of a good presentation
09/02	OEH 402 + Zoom	Dr. Chandralekha Singh	Equality in Physics
09/09	OEH 402 + Zoom	Dr. Robert Devaty	Graduate Admissions
09/16	OEH 402 + Zoom	Class Discussion	Networking Professional etiquette Elements of a good poster
09/23	OEH 402 + Zoom	Presentations	Student presentations
09/30	OEH 402 + Zoom	Dr. Cassie Quigley	School of Education Student presentations
10/07	OEH 402 + Zoom	Presentations	Student presentations
10/14	No Classes	Student Self-Care Day	
10/21	OEH 402 + Zoom	Presentations	Student presentations
10/28	OEH 402 + Zoom	Presentations	Student presentations
11/04 Mandatory	Zoom Meeting	Undergraduate Poster Session	Poster presentations
11/11	OEH 402 + Zoom	Emily Bennett	Career Center
11/18	OEH 402 + Zoom	Class Discussion	End of Semester Summary

Grading

Assignment	Description	Points
Attendance	Attend a class session synchronously (either in-person or remote), or submit a summary of the class topic in Canvas.	9 X 20 = 180
Presentation	Give a presentation on a topic in physics and/or astronomy.	410
Poster	Prepare and present a poster at the Undergraduate Poster Session on November 4 th .	410
		1000

The maximum number of points for the semester is 1000. Letter grades will be assigned according to minimum cutoffs in the table below.

Grade	Points	
A+	970	97%
A	900	90%
B	800	80%
C	700	70%
D	600	60%

¹ Schedule is subject to change.

Presentations

Each student will give a 10-15 minute presentation on a topic in physics and/or astronomy.

- The presentations will start on September 23rd.
- You may choose your own topic.
- The presentation should be 20 minutes (10-15 minutes for the talk and a few minutes for questions).
- You should choose a format that is compatible with an online presentation.
- If you cannot present synchronously, then submit a video of your presentation before class.

Asynchronous Participation

You are strongly encouraged to participate synchronously in this course. However, if you are unable to participate synchronously due to circumstances beyond your control, then you may participate in the class discussion by submitting a 500 word (minimum) paper on the class topic. You will be responsible for doing the research on the topic, though you will be welcome to contact Dr. Clark and/or the guest speaker to ask questions, get basic information, etc.

If you cannot participate in the class synchronously for your presentation then you will submit a video of your presentation before your scheduled day. The video can be any format, such as PowerPoint with voice narration.

If you cannot participate synchronously in the poster session on November 4th, then you will submit your poster before that date along with a video or audio recording of your poster presentation.

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the [Academic Integrity Guide](#) for an overview of the topic. For hands- on practice, complete the [Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism tutorial](#).

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 [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.

Health and Safety Statement

In the midst of this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. While in class, at a minimum this means that you must wear a face covering and comply with physical distancing requirements; other requirements may be added by

the University during the semester. These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all community members.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in you not being permitted to attend class in person and could result in a Student Conduct violation. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit coronavirus.pitt.edu and check your Pitt email for updates before each class.

Remote Instruction

This class will be offered in-person (OEH 402) and through Zoom when the University is in the Guarded or Elevated postures. This course will only be offered through Zoom when the University is in the High Risk posture.

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.

Email Communication

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Title IX:

Legal text: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." As a professor, I am a mandatory reporter and I am required to report violations of Title IX that I observe, or am made aware of, to the Title IX office. Title IX violations include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual violence and verbal or sexual abuse. Within the classroom, behavior in violation might appear as suggestive jokes or innuendos, inappropriate touching, and unwanted sexual behavior or advances, but my capacity and obligation to report does not end at the classroom.