

Syllabus for PHYS 1310

Undergraduate Seminar

Spring 2020

Course Information

CRN 15302
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: 7:00am – 8:00am
Tuesday: 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Thursday: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am – 11:00am
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
01-08-20	AH 106	Introduction Activity	Introduction and an activity to select groups and topics for the presentations
01-15-20	AH 106	Emily Bennett	Career Development and Placement Center
01-22-20	AH 106	Lesha Greene Class Discussion	Honors College Elements of a good presentation
01-29-20	AH 106	Chandraleka Singh	The Status of Women in Physics
02-05-20	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
02-12-20	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations Elements of a good poster
02-19-20	AH 321	Lecture	Emil Sanielevici Undergraduate Research Lecture
02-26-20	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
03-04-20	AH 106	Cassie Quigley Presentations	School of Education Student presentations Submit posters for printing
03-11-20		Spring Break	
03-18-20 Mandatory	O'Hara Student Center Ballroom	Undergraduate Poster Session	Poster presentations
03-25-20	AH 321	Alumni Panel	Discussion with recent alumni
04-01-20	AH 106	Presentations	Student presentations
04-08-20	AH 106	Dr. Robert Devaty	Graduate Admissions
04-15-20	AH 106	Class Discussion	End of Semester Summary

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.	300 (20 each)
Participation	You will receive 10 points for each class in which you contribute to the discussion. The maximum for the semester is 100 points.	100 (10 each)
Presentation	Give a single or group presentation followed by a short class discussion.	300
Poster	Prepare and present a poster at the Undergraduate Poster Session on March 18 th .	300
		1000

¹ Schedule is subject to change.

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%

Group Presentations

The students in the course will be divided into groups of 2 or 3 and each group will be responsible for giving a presentation on a selected topic.

- The groups will be assigned on the first day of class.
- The presentations will start on February 5th.
- Each group will select their own topic within Physics and/or Astronomy.
- Each presentation should be 20 minutes long, including a few minutes at the end for questions.
- Each person in the group will give a part of the presentation, so each person in the group will speak.
- Each group is free to choose the format of their presentation (chalk board, PowerPoint, etc.).
- Each group will practice their presentation before presenting in class.

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.