

## PHYS 5101: Physics Colloquium – Spring 2009

**Instructor:** Stefan K. ESTREICHER  
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office hours: M-W 1:30-3:00. I am often in my office in the mornings.

**Schedule:** Thursday, 3:30, Sci 007, occasionally Friday, 3:00, Langford Lab in EE

The purpose of the colloquium is to enhance your general education in physics, in particular in areas which are not your own. All the talks are given at a general level and should be accessible to graduate students and maybe even to faculty members. This is also an opportunity to meet physicists from various labs and universities. Their area of expertise could be related to your research, or you may want to find out about job opportunities at their labs. The schedules of our visitors are prepared ahead of their visit: let me know early if you want to meet individually with one of our guests.

### Course requirements:

1. Attend the colloquium regularly
2. Turn in a short report (in my mailbox) by the Monday following each colloquium. This report (~1/2 page) is a summary of the key points of the talk. It can be handwritten as long as it is readable.

### Grading (Pass/Fail):

'Pass' implies a 85% or higher attendance rate (weekly reports). Note that you are allowed to miss two of the twelve talks scheduled for this semester. This is in case you are out of town or sick some day, but not because you can pick and chose whether to attend or not. If you fail to come regularly to the colloquium, you will fail the course. The Department spends considerable resources bringing speakers to Texas Tech. Everybody (Faculty and Graduate Students) should attend all the talks.

A tentative list of dates and speakers is attached. The titles and abstracts will be distributed about one week before each talk. Two talks are scheduled for Fridays. Mark the dates and time of the talks in your calendar.

### Objectives:

- ...learn about areas of physics that are not your own,
- ...become the science being done at other universities and research areas,
- ...have the opportunity to meet high-level scientists from other Universities, National Laboratories, and Industry.

### Outcomes:

After completing this course, graduate students should

- ...have expanded their scientific horizon
- ...have been exposed to the state-of-the-art in research areas different from their own.

### Students with disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

### Religious holy days:

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for the time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the action and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.