COURSE SYLLABUS -- Physics 5101, Seminar, Spring, 2012

Department of Physics Colloquium, Spring, 2012

Instructor: Dr. C.W. Myles, Professor of Physics. Office: Science Room 18. Phone: 742-3768.
Office Hours: 3–4pm, Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. & by appointment. Email: Charley.Myles@ttu.edu.
A class email distribution list will be developed & we can have email discussions as needed.
I make important email announcements!

Please be sure that I have your email address & that you check email DAILY!!

Class Meetings: The scheduled class time & place is Thursday, 3:30-4:50pm in Science Room 234 (the talks actually begin at 3:40pm). Also, however, Thursdays, at 3-3:30pm, there will usually be refreshments in the conference room (Rm 103)! You are encouraged to come to this in order to interact informally with the speaker & with the Physics faculty.

What other course serves refreshments (FREE FOOD!!)?

Course Objective: The course goal is to expose physics graduate students to current research in a variety of physics sub-areas. This will be achieved by having (hopefully pedagogical!) research talks given on a variety of topics by a variety of speakers from both off & on campus.

Outcome Assessment: The expected course outcomes will be assessed through your attendance & through your submission of the notebook and the written reports discussed below.

Student Responsibilities and Course Rules

ATTEND EACH COLLOQUIUM!

1. Out of courtesy both to the speaker & to the audience, please arrive on time! It is very RUDE to noisily barge into a room where a talk is already underway!

2. CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF!

3. Pay attention to the speakers!

4. Out of courtesy to the speakers, NO sleeping, eating, drinking, talking, reading, doing homework, etc. is allowed during the talks.

Physics Level: The course is designed for Physics graduate students. Each speaker is requested to design a talk so that a first year Physics graduate student can understand at least a major portion.

Topics: A separate, TENTATIVE, list of speakers and of their tentative topics is attached.

Grades: This is a pass-fail (P/F) course. You MUST keep a Colloquium Notebook in which you write notes on each talk. This is to be written during each talk. IT SHOULD NOT be constructed at semester’s end to satisfy my grading requirement! It needn’t be detailed, but it should contain enough to convince me that you were paying attention to the talk. At semester’s end, the notebooks will be turned in. Then, you also will turn in A REPORT which summarizes, in 1 page each, the three (3) talks (3 pages total!) which, in your opinion, were the three (3) best. The notebooks & the reports should do something other than repeat the speaker’s abstract.

TO RECEIVE A P GRADE, YOU MUST

1. Attend at least 13 (87%) of the 15 scheduled colloquia. I allow two (2) missed colloquia, which should normally be sufficient for cases of illness, etc. Further absences will not be excused without a note from a doctor or other, similar “official” excuse.

2. At the end of the semester, turn in the Colloquium Notebook discussed above. This means a BOUND NOTEBOOK, NOT loose papers stapled together!

3. At the end of the semester, turn in THE REPORT discussed above.
IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tues., Jan. 24**: Last day to add.
- **Wed., Feb. 15**: Last withdraw date with refund.
- **Thurs., May 3**: Last Colloquium.
- **Sat., March 10-Sun, March 18**: Spring Break, NO CLASS!
- **Thurs., March 22-Sat., March 24**: I’ll be out of town!
- **Texas Section APS Meeting, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX!!**

Fri., Feb. 3: Last drop date with refund.
Wed., March 28: Last drop date.
Fri., May 18: Grades are due!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught in this type of behavior will be punished to the fullest extent allowed by TTU. See TTU Student Handbook or Catalogue.

CLASSROOM CIVILITY AND ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to assist in maintaining an environment which is conducive to learning. To assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from the lecture, you are expected to adhere to the following

*Simple Rules of Classroom Etiquette*

(Most of these are nothing but common courtesy!)

1. In the classroom, students are prohibited from using cell phones (*talking OR texting!*), eating/drinking, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other unrelated material, visiting with your neighbor, sleeping or engaging in other forms of distraction. Inappropriate behavior of this kind shall result in, minimally, a request to leave the room.

2. It is *EXTREMELY RUDE*, both to me & to other audience members, to leave during a lecture or to arrive very late. Please do not come to the lecture if you are unable to attend for the full duration or if you are not able to *ARRIVE ON TIME*! Physical illness is an obvious exception to this rule. If you have an expected reason to leave early, please tell me *BEFORE* the speaker begins the talk and sit in a convenient location for leaving without disturbing the audience.

3. No laptops or any other electronic devices are allowed to be operational in class unless the need for such device for reason of a disability is documented by Access TECH.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

*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 in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.*