

COURSE SYLLABUS -- Physics 5101, Fall, 2008 Colloquium

Instructor: Dr. C.W. Myles, Professor, Dept. of Physics. **Office:** Sc. Rm 18. **Phone:** 742-3768.

Office Hours: Just before or just after class, 10am – noon, M-F & *by appointment*.

Email: Charley.Myles@ttu.edu. A class email distribution list will be developed so we can have email discussions as needed. I also will make *important class announcements* by email! *Its vital that I have your email address & that you check your email DAILY!!*

Course Meetings: **NOTE!** The official, scheduled class time is 3:30-4:50pm. However, Thurs. 3-3:30pm will *usually* be refreshment time in the conference room (Rm 103)! *You are encouraged to come to this in order to interact informally with the speaker & with Physics faculty.* What other course serves refreshments? Officially, we meet in Sc. Room 7. However, *usually*, we'll meet in Sc. Room 234. We'll meet only occasionally (if at all) in Room 7. Sometimes, we may meet elsewhere (like Electrical Engineering). There may also be special Friday talks! *Please watch for announcements about the meeting time/ places.*

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 and on campus. (This semester, they mostly come from TTU!).

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

Student Responsibilities; Rules: **ATTEND EACH COLLOQUIUM!** Pay attention to the speakers! Out of courtesy to the speakers, no sleeping, eating, drinking, talking, reading, doing homework, etc. is allowed during the talks. *Cell phones & beepers must be turned OFF! Out of courtesy both to the speaker & the audience, please arrive on time! It's rude to noisily barge into a room where a talk is already underway!*

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty (cheating, etc.) 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.

Physics Level: The course is designed for students in any graduate program in Physics. Each speaker has been 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 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 grade of P, you must:

1. Attend *at least* 11 (85%) of the 13 scheduled colloquia. I am allowing 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: **Wed, Feb 6:** Last withdrawal date-partial refund. **Wed, March 5:** Mid-Semester. **Wed, March 12:** Last drop/withdraw date. **Mon, March 17-Fri March 21:** Spring Break, NO CLASS!!

Any student who, because of disabling conditions, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be made. Proper documentation must be presented from the Dean of Students Office!

