Physics 360/460 – Seminar

Wittenberg University
Spring 2009
Jeremiah Williams

http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/phys/seminar/

Contact Information:

Office: 311 Kuss Science Center
Phone: 327-7825
e-mail: jwilliams@wittenberg.edu
web: http://userpages.wittenberg.edu/jwilliams

Office Hours: MWF 10:15–11:15 AM and by appointment

Class Schedule:

Class Meetings: W 3:00 – 4:00 AM Sci 319

Course Goals:

1. To develop the skills required to make clear presentations on technical topics.

2. To learn to use reference materials pertinent to physics.

3. To get a feel for what is currently interesting and important in physics/engineering, including societal, ethical, and career issues.

Course Policies:

Attendance: This is a seminar, so participation (filling out feedback forms, asking questions of speakers, etc.) and attendance are mandatory and directly contribute to your course grade.

Grade Determination: The course grade will be determined using the following scheme. Your score for the presentation will be partially based on the feedback forms.

Attendance and participation 30%
Presentations 70%

Accommodations: Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide a self-identification letter. To obtain this letter, contact Vancenia Rutherford, the Assistant Provost for Academic Services, at 937-327-7924 in room 203 Recitation Hall.
Ground Rules for Presentations:

• Each person will make at least one presentation this semester.
• Presentations will normally be 20 minutes (2 per class period) with additional time allotted for questions.
• The ability to give a technical talk is a skill that takes time to develop. To assist in this process, feedback from the audience to the presenter will be summarized by the department and discussed with the speaker. In order for this feedback to be most beneficial, it is necessary that you receive the feedback while the talk is still fresh in your mind. As a result, you are required to meet with the instructor by the end of the Friday following your talk.
• The feedback that you will receive after your talk is intended to assist you as you develop your skills in orally communicating technical information. It is expected that you will use these comments as prepare your next talk. Further, you are required to bring a copy of your feedback to the next dry run that you give.
• You must consult with me or another faculty member no later than one week (earlier is better) before a presentation about your topic. Additionally, you are required to give a dry run of your talk to a faculty member (preferably the same one you consulted about the topic with!) no later than the Monday before your talk. The dry run must be given in BDK 319. You are responsible for setting up a time for your dry run. Each time you do not do a dry run of your talk by the end of the Monday before your talk, your talk will be rescheduled and there will be a letter reduction in your course grade.
• Sources for talks must be from peer-reviewed journals, magazines or books generally regarded as authoritative (i.e. American Journal of Physics, Review of Scientific Instruments, Science, Physics World, Scientific American, etc.), unless you have the prior agreement of a faculty member in the Physics Department.
• Seniors will give two talks, one early in the semester and one at the end of the semester. The second talk, which should last 15 minutes with additional time for questions, will provide an opportunity to update or introduce the department on the status of your senior research project.