Physics 299: Physics Culture & Career, Fall 2022

Instructors

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Coordinates

Class time: Thursday, 10am-10.50am
Class location: WIL 112

Course description

PHYS 299 is meant to help you transition into the Physics Department of the University of Oregon (UO) and to make you feel at home as a physics student. It will help you explore why you are here, and become familiar with opportunities within the department. It will help you get an idea of what “doing physics” is, and help you develop skills you need to succeed as a physics major. For example, we will look at the difference between math as used in Physics, and math as used in Math! Guest speakers, both UO grad students and UO faculty members, will share with you their experience and joy in doing science.

Course learning outcomes

1. Develop a foundation for community building and support.
2. Develop skills for being successful within a college environment (time management, different modes of learning, persistence, forming a study group, finding a mentor).
3. Introduction to skills needed to succeed in physics, including problem solving techniques and thinking about equations in physics.

Course expectations: professionalism
• Be on time, prepared and willing.
• Submit timely, quality work. Late assignments will not be awarded credit unless arrangements have been made prior to the due date.
• If you are going to be late or need to miss class due to an illness, religious holiday, or emergency, please notify an instructor in advance by email at least 24 hours prior to the class.
• Silence electronic notifications, and refrain from using your phone for non-class related work during class.
• At times in the course, there will be discussions on topics that might be considered sensitive to some people, it is important that we establish an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect.
• We will not always all agree, in fact, we will learn better from different viewpoints, but all discussion should be conducted with civility and integrity. This atmosphere of respect should be extended to any guests we have in class, or any time we visit another area of campus.

Grading Information

This is a Pass/No Pass course. You pass if you score 40 points or more.

50 points in total can be earned with 10 homework assignments.

Homework assignments

You will be assigned a series of self-evaluations reflecting on your academic and out-of-class experiences. The evaluations will be completed online, on canvas. Instructors will give you feedback on your evaluations, but they are primarily designed to be a tool for you to chart your growth throughout your first term at the UO. Homework is generally due on Monday by midnight and will be posted one week in advance.

Other assignments involve exploring resources on campus and in the Physics Department. One assignment consists of you and your small group interviewing a scientist from a short list of interesting people who are at the UO now or were here as undergrads (some on the list are grad students, some work at the UO in different capacities). During the last week (week 10) your group will give a short presentation about what you learned from that interview.

Lecture schedule

Weeks 1,3,5,7 consist of activities and discussions with the instructors.

Weeks 2,4,6,8 will have guest speakers engaging you in their scientific interests.
Week 9: no lecture because of Thanksgiving.

Week 10 is reserved for group presentations, each presentation being about the scientist interviewed by your group about their path, their research, and their daily activities as a scientist.

**Reporting Harassment and Discrimination**

Both instructors are *student-directed employees*. For information about our reporting obligations as employees, please see Employee Reporting Obligations on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC) website. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender-based violence, may seek information and resources at safe.uoregon.edu, respect.uoregon.edu, or investigations.uoregon.edu or contact the non-confidential Title IX office/Office of Civil Rights Compliance (541-346-3123), or Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE for help. We are also mandatory reporters of child abuse. Please find more information at Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.