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Fall 2015

## PHYS 3198

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*University of New Orleans*

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## Syllabus of the Undergraduate Seminar Course PHYS-3198

**Instructor:** Prof. Leszek MALKINSKI  
**Contacts:** Phone: 504-280-1346 E-mail: [lmalkins@uno.edu](mailto:lmalkins@uno.edu)  
**Class times:** Wednesdays 3:00-4:10 PM  
**Location:** Room SC 1053  
**Office hours:** Room SC 2009, Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00AM-1:00 PM.  
Other hours are available by appointment.

**General information:** 1-credit-hour course PHYS 3198 Undergraduate Seminar course is offered each semester. A group comprised of representatives of the physics faculty and undergraduate physics majors meets at regular intervals during the semester to listen to the talks of the invited seminar speakers and to discuss selected topics in physics. The seminar schedule will be announced and updated on the Department of Physics website. Physics majors must formally register and by the end of the course present an approved paper in order to satisfy credit requirements.

**Learning outcomes:** Students attending this course will expand their knowledge of physics beyond the material required by standard textbook. This goal will be achieved by attending seminar talks on advanced physics topics given by the invited speakers and by engaging in discussions following presentations. Importantly, throughout the semester the registered students will be working on their own presentations. This will improve their ability to find appropriate material for the presentation, learn to read and understand scientific article and improve their presentation skills.

**Grading policy:** The grade will be determined by student's attendance on seminars and their project preparation and presentation. Students with more than two unjustified absences will have reduced points for attendance. Points will be deducted by not complying with the schedule of preparation of the presentation. The presentation will be evaluated by the physics faculty using the form and criteria enclosed at the end of the syllabus.

| <b><u>Grade Division:</u></b> |      | <b><u>Grading Scale:</u></b> |            |
|-------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------------|
| Participation                 | 20%  | A                            | 89-100 %   |
| Project Preparation           | 10%  | B                            | 75-88 %    |
| Project Presentation          | 70 % | C                            | 60-74 %    |
|                               |      | D                            | 50-59 %    |
|                               |      | F                            | below 50 % |

### **Important dates:**

Wednesday, August 26, 3-4 PM room SC1053 – Instructions and orientation for the students.  
Wednesday, September 16 - Project subject approval (project preparation)  
Wednesday, October 7 - Project Abstract ready (project preparation)  
Wednesday, November - 11 - - PowerPoint presentation draft submission. (project preparation)  
Wednesdays, November 25 and December 2 - Presentations of the projects.

**Academic dishonesty:** Students who violate the standards of honest academic conduct are subject to disciplinary action. If you have any questions about the definition of academic dishonesty, you should consult UNO Student Handbook (or similar documents at two participating universities)

**Special Needs:** At UNO, we make every effort to accommodate students with special needs. If you have special needs, you should contact Office of Disability Services at 280-7327

Please, check syllabus attachment on Moodle for more information on policies and procedures.

## Seminar Grading UNO Phys-3198

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015\_

Subject of Seminar \_\_\_\_\_

Grader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Grading** (See rubric)

4 = Exceptional    3 = Very Good    2 = Acceptable    1 = Unacceptable

| Criterion                                 | Grade | Comments |
|---|-------|----------|
| <b>Content</b><br>(double pts to 8,6,4,2) |       |          |
| <b>Organization</b>                       |       |          |
| <b>Slides/Visual Aids</b>                 |       |          |
| <b>Speaking Skills</b>                    |       |          |
| <b>Documentation</b>                      |       |          |
| <b>Length</b>                             |       |          |
| <b>Total Points</b>                       |       |          |

Scale: A 24 - 28 pts; B 19-23 pts; C 14 - 18 pts; D 9 - 13 pts; F < 9 pts

Content *must* be Acceptable or above.

**Other comments:**

## Scoring Rubric for Physics Seminar Presentations

| <b>Criterion</b>              | <b>Exceptional</b>  | <b>Very Good</b>  | <b>Acceptable</b>  | <b>Unacceptable</b>   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Content</b>                | Speaker provides an accurate and complete explanation of key concepts and theories, drawing upon relevant literature. Listeners able to develop an understanding of the material. (8 pt.) | For the most part, explanations of concepts and theories are accurate and complete. Listeners gain some knowledge of the topic. (6 pt.) | Explanations of concepts and/or theories are inaccurate or incomplete. Little attempt is made to tie theory to practice. Listeners gain little from the presentation (4 pt.) | No reference is made to literature or theory. Listeners gain no new insights. (2 pt.)               |
| <b>Organization</b>           | Speaker presents information in logical, interesting sequence which audience can follow. Ideas well reinforced with examples. (4 pt.)   | Speaker presents information in logical sequence which audience can follow. Could use more examples to support ideas. (3 pt.)           | Audience has difficulty following presentation because it jumps around. Few supportive examples. (2 pt.)   | Audience cannot understand presentation because there is no consistent flow of information. (1 pt.) |
| <b>Graphics / Visual Aids</b> | Speaker's graphics are interesting and explanatory and directly related to presentation. (4 pt.)  | Speaker's graphics relate to text and presentation. (3 pt.)   | Speaker occasionally uses graphics that rarely support text and presentation. (2 pt.)  | Speaker uses superfluous graphics or no graphics. (1 pt.)   |
| <b>Speaking Skills</b>        | Poised, articulate; proper volume; steady rate; good posture and eye contact; enthusiasm; confidence. All terms pronounced properly. (4 pt.)  | Clear articulation but not as polished. Either inconsistent volume or rate. Some mispronounced words. (3 pt.)                           | Some mumbling; little eye contact; uneven rate; little or no expression. (2 pt.)   | Inaudible or too loud; no eye contact; rate too slow/fast; disinterested/monotone (1 pt.)           |
| <b>Documentation</b>          | All sources of facts and examples fully documented and mentioned in the talk. (4 pt.)   | Most sources of facts and examples documented and mentioned in the talk. (3 pt.)  | Some sources of facts and examples documented and mentioned in the talk. (2 pt.)   | No sources of facts and examples documented and mentioned in the talk. (1 pt.)                      |
| <b>Length of Presentation</b> | At least 8 and no more than 12 minutes with substantially all material covered and little extraneous material. (4 pt.)  | Less than 8 or more than 12 minutes with most of topic appropriately covered (3 pt.)  | Less than 6 or more than 15 minutes; incomplete coverage or excessive coverage. (2 pt.)  | Less than 4 or more than 20 minutes. (1 pt.)  |