Physics 470  
Departmental Seminar  

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday at 4 PM

Instructor: Dr. Norm Markworth
Office: STEM 207L
Office Hours: 2:00 – 4:00 MWF
10:00 – 12:00 TR

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Phone: 468-2097

Purpose

Physics 470 has two purposes. First is to give students an opportunity to present current topics in physics, engineering, or astronomy before an audience of the students and faculty of the department. Secondly, to prepare students to take the Major Field Test (MFT) in physics.

This course is for two credits and typically meets for 100 minutes a week for 15 weeks. Students have significant weekly reading and assignments designed to develop their research papers, seminar slides, and oral presentations. Students are expected to work outside of class throughout the semester to conduct literature searches, draft seminar slides (25 minute presentations), and draft research papers with the guidance of their research advisors. Students have required academic components and deliverables: written work (seminar slides, research papers) and oral (seminars). These activities average at a minimum four hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Assignments

Each Tuesday will be spent in guided preparation for the MFT. If a student seminar is approaching in a given week, that Tuesday a practice of the seminar will be presented to and critiqued by a very limited audience. Letter grades will follow the scheme…

A 90.0 - 100  B  80.0 - 89.9  C  70.0 - 79.9  D  60.0 - 69.9  F  < 60.0

Email Communications

Make sure you always use your SFA e-mail account for network correspondence. Messages from your instructor will be sent to your SFA email account periodically.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices.
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class.
2. The falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment.
3. Helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own.

a. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades - Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

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**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_conduct_code.asp