PH4010 Senior Physics Colloquium I ... (0-0-3) f ... 1 Cr

Course Description:
Class discussion of the literature in the field of physics. Oral and written presentations are required.
Prerequisite: senior standing or permission of instructor.

This course is a prerequisite for PH4011.

Text (Fall 2004): none

Course Web page: Fall 2002, Fall 2001 and Fall 2000

Previous Texts:

- A Speaker's Guidebook, Text and Reference, Dan O'Hair, Rob Stewart and Hannah Rubenstein (ISBN 0-312-25848-8)
- A Handbook of Public Speaking for Scientists & Engineers, Peter Kenny (ISBN 0852745532)

Typical Syllabus:
Students research selected topics in Physics using the library and internet resources in order to prepare short oral presentations to the class. The style of the talks is intended to simulate presentations at Physics professional society meetings. A short written abstract (summary) of each talk is required.

Each student will prepare and give 3 or 4 short (10 minute) talks and one intermediate length (20 minute) talk.

Students are expected to practice critical listening skills by being attentive audience members for both fellow student presentations and departmental invited speakers at the Thursday Colloquium. They complete evaluation forms for each speech.

Course rationale:
This course deals with professional skills needed by practicing Physicists. Public speaking of the form needed in professional society meetings, including the preparation needed before the talk (eg. research, writing, editing, rehearsal, and choice of visual aids), is emphasized. Listening skills are developed in class and at departmental colloquia. This is a required course for SPH and SAP majors.

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Syllabus: Senior Colloquium
PH4010; Fall 2003
MWTh 4-5; Fisher 101 and 139

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Grading:
30% Oral presentations
30% Written presentations
20% Evaluations of presentations and department colloquia
20% Participation

Book:
The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, Edward R. Tufte

Course Rationale:
Communication is critical, especially for scientists and engineers. How many times have you read a useless manual? The person who built the machine obviously knew how it worked and how to get it to do what he/she wanted. The fault is not with the designer, but with the communication between you and the designer.

Over the next two semesters, we will explore communication of technical information, both in written and oral formats.