Physics Seminar 191,192,193 Spring 2002

Instructors:	Dr. L.P. Staunton (191)	271-3033	Lawrence.Staunton@drake.edu
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Time: Mondays, 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.

Place: Harvey Ingham (Rm 102)

Rules:

1) **Requirements :**

2 talks (16 minutes + 4 minutes discussion)

2 abstracts for talks (between 300 and 600 characters, including blanks)

2 write-ups of talks (4 – 6 pages each)

6 summaries (1 page each) of talks of your choice (3 from each series of talks)

2) **Due dates**:

Abstracts for Talk 1: Feb. 4

Abstracts for Talk 2: March 11

Summaries of any talk: one week after the talk was presented

Write-up of talk: one week after the talk was presented

3) **Penalties:** If a due date is missed, every day late will result in subtracting 20 % of the maximum possible number of points; for example, if your work is worth 40 points out of a maximum of 50 points but handed in two days late, you will only be credited 20 points (namely 40 - 40% times 50).

4) **Attendance** is required at **all** meetings ! If you think you cannot come to a meeting, check with the instructor **before** you miss it !

5) **Grading** will be based on the following scheme:

Abstracts:	10 points max
Summaries:	20 points max
Talk:	50 points max
Write-up:	50 points max

A: > 85 %
B: > 75 %
C: > 65%
D: > 50%

Recommendations:

1) **Talk:**

The most important part is the choice of your subject. I recommend to look through popular journals such as Scientific American or, a bit more special, Physics Today; some students may also be able to talk about some research they have participated in. Remember that it might be quite difficult to explain a Nobel Prize Winning topic in Quantum Field Theory to your particular audience (including the instructor !). Check with the instructor as far ahead as possible whether your intended topic is suitable for this seminar. Also, you may **not** change your subject after you have handed in the abstract.

a) **Organization**: Include one transparency for the **contents** and one for the **summary**.

b) You **may not use the blackboard** during your talk; this is impossible in many real scientific meetings; however, you can use the board to answer questions.

c) **Transparencies:** Make sure they are readable for everybody. Check the size of the letters, do not stand in front of the projector, and make sure you know where a certain transparency is at a given time.

d) **Timing:** Practice your talk either for yourself or (better) with friends. Typically, a talk becomes longer than expected. In real life (*after 17 minutes in this course*), this may (*will*) result in a cut-off by the chair of the session. **Do not read your talk or learn it by heart !** Good transparencies will help you to keep on track.

2) **Writing Assignments:**

In all assignments, watch your spelling and grammar **— in all cases, a full grade will be taken off if there is a mistake that could have been picked up with a Macintosh WORD 5.1 (or higher version) spell checker !** Remember, however, that spell-checkers will usually not detect missing/extra words or grammatical errors. Also, "dig" and "dog" are both words of the English language, but normally only one of them (or none) will make sense in a particular context.

a) **Abstracts:** Keep them short, choose your words carefully, and try to make your talk attractive to the audience. Keep in mind that your audience may not know anything about the subject you would like to talk about.

b) **Summaries:** Pick a "good" talk to write your summary about. Make sure you *understand* what you are writing about; maybe you want to check with the speaker about the contents of your summary. Although we live in an age of advanced technology, **audio- or video-taping of a talk is not allowed.**

c) **Write-ups:** If you pick a good topic, it is easy to write about. Remember that holes in your knowledge about the subject will be very easy to detect in this part of your work.

Frequent Problems:

1) Chemistry **is when** it stinks.

Better: Many reactions in Chemistry result in a smell.

2) The result **is that** physicists **don't** like Chemistry.

Better: **As a result,** physicists **do not** like Chemistry.

3) This study is of **greater** importance. Greater than **WHAT ?**

4) there — their; then — than; effect — affect; it's — its

5) Singular — Plural; the **"s"** in something work**s.**

6) There is **only one first**, biggest, smallest, ...

7) A write-up in physics is not a newspaper article or an "adventure story" !

More Recommendations:

1) Do not use "you/your"; use "I" only if you really need it.

2) Simplify your sentences ! ("What I did was to use .." **???** Better: "**I used** ..")

3) Use **complete** sentences of **finite length** !

4) Find **alternatives** for **"use"** and **"do" !**

5) On the write-ups, add a list of references.

6) Do not criticize (good, bad, interesting, ...) in the summaries !

7) Spell-check and proof-read !

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Schedule of Talks:

Date:	**Speaker:**		
Jan. 28	**ORIENTATION (Bartschat)**		
Feb. 4	**Harris**	**Murawski**	**Vermedahl**
Feb. 11	**Baltz**	**Gilliam**	**Lamb**
Feb. 18.	**McGleam**	**Plasek**	**Ragan**
Feb. 25	**Reinig**	**Riordan**	**Thompson**
Mar. 4	**VerSteeg**	**Fustin**	**Powell**
Mar. 11	**Pundi**	**Riddle**	**Trachy**
Mar. 18	**SPRING BREAK**		
Mar. 25	**Harris**	**Murawski**	**Vermedahl**
Apr. 1	**Baltz**	**Gilliam**	**Lamb**
Apr. 8	**McGleam**	**Plasek**	**Ragan**
Apr. 15	**Reinig**	**Riordan**	**Thompson**
Apr. 22	**VerSteeg**	**Fustin**	**Powell**
Apr. 29	**Pundi**	**Riddle**	**Trachy**
May 6	**DONE (Guest Speaker ?)**		