

Physics 2999- Spring 2013
Physics and Astronomy Colloquium

Professor: James A Mueller

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Office hours: by appointment.

Description of Course: Departmental colloquia are an excellent resource for students to learn about current research in physics and astronomy and to expose them to the breadth of research being conducted in the department. To encourage attendance, incoming students are required to take PY2999. This is a pass/fail course with grade assigned as described below.

Course Objectives: Students successfully completing this course will

- Gain familiarity with research being conducted in Physics and Astronomy.
- Gain exposure to current research topics.
- Produce camera-ready documents using L^AT_EX.

Grading:

1. Attend Physics and Astronomy colloquia at Pitt and at CMU.
2. Submit to courseweb a short (less than one page) summary of the colloquium you attended. The reviews must be in a machine-independent format, such as pdf, generated using L^AT_EX. The L^AT_EX source must also be submitted.
3. All summaries must be submitted within one week of the date of the colloquium.
4. Each summary is worth one point. You must obtain eight points each term.
5. The international standard for typesetting scientific communications is latex. I encourage you to install and use latex on your laptop. If you are not familiar with latex, help is provided in the links below. Write-ups not accompanied by the L^AT_EX source will only receive half credit. As further inducement, the first pdf that a student submits that was created with latex that includes one typeset mathematical equation and one included figure will earn that student one extra point.

This course is graded pass/fail.

L^AT_EX Resources:

- Documentation

L^AT_EX Wiki A fairly complete site for documentation.

A Manual Many translations of a “Not so Short Introduction to L^AT_EX2e.”

- Installing L^AT_EX

T_EXLive A complete distribution of L^AT_EX/T_EX; probably the standard.

MacT_EX T_EXLive packaged for installation on Macintosh computers.

MIK_T_EX A distribution geared for users of Microsoft systems.

REV_T_EX Style files for submitting to APS or AIP journals.

Course Policies:

- Academic Integrity:

Students in this course will be expected to comply with University of Pittsburgh’s Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

- Disabilities:

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both the instructor and the Disability Resources and Services no later than the 2nd week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (Voice or TTD) to schedule an appointment. The Office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.