

Physics 491: Senior Seminar Spring 2018

The purpose of this class is to develop skills for communicating scientific knowledge. There are two main parts to the course. First: reading, questioning, and discussing scientific articles. Second: writing papers and giving presentations on a research project of your choosing.

Professor:	Phone	Office	E-mail
Dr. Tyler Nordgren	x8660	AHON 126	tyler_nordgren@redlands.edu

Class meetings: Sec 01: MW 1:00-2:20 PM, Sec 02: MW 2:30-3:50 PM (AHON 101)

Office Hours: MF from 10:30-11:30 am and W 10:00-11:00 am. You can also make an appointment or just stop by my office. I'll be glad to talk to you whenever I'm able.

Goals:

1. To critically read scientific literature and engage in scientific discourse.
2. To communicate results through scientific writing and oral presentations.
3. To work productively in a group setting and establish a leadership position.
4. To supply constructive criticism when evaluating the work of peers.

Text: *The Craft of Scientific Writing* (3rd edition) by Michael Alley

Course Policies: Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated. I am under no obligation to read any assignments turned in late, so they will not be part of your evaluation. If you have a pressing reason to extend a due date, you must request an extension well in advance of the original due date. I reserve the right to schedule pop quizzes if students are failing to attend meetings or come to meetings unprepared.

Writing: All of the writing assignments must be typed. The draft and final versions of the senior thesis must be submitted by email. MS Word is the preferred form. You must check with the instructor if you want to use something else. Plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated and will result in failure of the course.

Presentations: There will be ONE senior symposium this year. It will be on Thursday, March 29th, beginning at 4 pm. Here, you will give a presentation of your work to the department. You will give a practice talk to this class beforehand. Dinner will be served after the presentations.

Grading: You will receive a numeric grade for this class. Over the course of the semester you will keep a portfolio of all the work you complete in class. At the end of the semester you will turn it in with a self-evaluation that lays out an argument for what grade you deserve using your portfolio as evidence. The portfolio and your self-evaluation are due by Wednesday, April 18th.