

Physics Seminar (PH 480) Course Syllabus

Winter 2024 ◦ Northern Michigan University

Instructor: Dr. P. W. Mengyan (“men-gin”) **Office:** Science 2513 **Phone:** 906.227.2183
Email: pmengyan@nmu.edu [preferred comm. method]. Begin subject line with “PH 360:”
Office Hours: Mon and Wed 11:00 to 11:50 in Science 2513. Other times and formats by appointment.
Class Meetings PH 480 - Lecture [CRN: 10226/10227]: W 15:00 to 16:55 in *Science 2506*
Webpage: <https://educat.nmu.edu> ; <http://physics.nmu.edu/~pmengyan>
Required Text: S. Morgan and B. Whitener, Speaking about Science: A Manual for Creating Clear Lecture Presentations. (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006). [ISBN: 978-0521683456]

Course Description (outline and expected outcomes): Students will prepare and deliver a series of presentations on topics in physics or astronomy with faculty adviser approval. A student may enroll for one or two credits, which will determine the number of presentations to be done. The expected outcome is to give a professional-level talk on a physics or astronomy related topic. Progress towards this outcome will be assessed through homework assignments, class-related participation and activities such as delivering a public presentation (talk). More information is available via the webpage.

Course Objective(s): The course is designed to increase the student’s working knowledge and experience with giving technical presentations.

Grades:

Attendance, participation, homework, in-class exercises:	30%	A: ≥ 90%	A passing score for each component must be earned in order to qualify for a passing score in the course
Formal presentations:	70%	B: ≥ 80%	
		C: ≥ 70%	
		D: ≥ 60%	
<i>Total:</i>	<u>100%</u>	F: < 60%	

'+' & '-' assigned ± ~2.0% of the cutoff

Homework: Will be assigned periodically and may include exercises such as readings, interactions with classmates, and activities to supplement the lecture and project development. Due date, time and a description will be indicated on each assignment. Late assignments are *not* typically accepted.

Presentations: Each student will present at least two (2) department-wide talks during the semester (those in the 2-credit PH 480 will have roughly double the work of the 1-credit PH 480). The schedule for the talks will be set within the first two weeks of the semester. Dtails relating to formatting, content, style and other expectations will be discussed in class.

Attendance:

You are expected to be in every class and on time. Absences will be excused for officially sanctioned university events, illness (documentation *may* be required), court appearance (plaintiff, defendant, witness, juror – documentation is required), family emergencies (at the discretion of the instructor and may require appropriate documentation).

If something occurs that you feel should be grounds for being excused it is your responsibility to contact your instructor, in writing, PRIOR to the absence (if possible, or as soon as possible after the absence) to discuss the situation. Excused absences for situations beyond the purview of NMU policy are at the sole discretion of the instructor, will be evaluated confidentially, on a case-by-case basis and confirmed in writing. An excused absence does not necessarily excuse you from completing the work. Arrangements for a planned excused absence, if possible, should be finalized (with written confirmation between student and instructor) no later than one business day before the planned absence, if possible. Otherwise, establish contact with the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.

Submitted work:

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, any work submitted for credit must follow the assignment requirements or may not be accepted.

Late Assignments:

Late work is not generally accepted. Should something arise that will prohibit you from submitting work on time, talk to your instructor as soon as you recognize there may be an issue.

ADA Statement:

In compliance with the ADA and university policy, *“If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1737 or disability@nmu.edu). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.”*

Religious Holidays:

Pursuant to university policy, a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known, in writing, to the instructor prior to an absence. A student who is absent from a class, exam or exercise for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to complete an assignment or exam scheduled for that day within a reasonable time around that absence.

Academic Integrity:

Section 2.3.1 of the NMU Student Handbook discusses scholastic dishonesty; all of which will be upheld in all aspects of this course. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Appropriate behavior:

I expect students to behave in a respectful, considerate and courteous fashion in any activity related to this course (e.g. Lecture, lab, discussion, office hours etc).

Rude, disrespectful or disruptive behavior will *never* be tolerated.