

Physics 596. The Art of Writing and Speaking About Physics & Astronomy

SYLLABUS FOR FALL QUARTER 2008

Professor: Eric Herbst
PRB 4144; 292-6951; herbst@mps.ohio-state.edu

Class Web Page: <http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~eric/teach.html>

Office hours: open

Text: *English Grammar On One Card* by V. F. Hopper
(Barron's Educational Series, 1970)

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| <i>Grading:</i> | First paper: draft | 15% |
| | First paper: final | 15% |
| | 15 minute talk | 15% |
| | Second paper: draft | 15% |
| | Second paper: final | 15% |
| | 25 minute talk | 20% |
| | Class Participation | 5% |

Schedule of assignments: See class calendar. Schedule for talks is tentative because it depends on the number of students in the class. Trading of dates for talks between students is permissible as long as the instructor is notified. All written work (12-point font) can be handed in as hard copy or emailed to me as an attachment. Microsoft Word and pdf formats are acceptable.

Late Penalties:

Written work: One Period: one-half letter grade. Two periods: one letter grade.
More than two periods: failure unless strong excuse.

Oral work: failure except for prior arrangement.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend a minimum of 2/3 of the lectures and talks. Persistent absenteeism will lead to a grade of incomplete.

Physics 596 is a Physical Science course in the Natural Science category of the GEC.

Goals/Rationale:

Writing courses across disciplines develop skills in writing, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students apply basic skills in expository writing.
2. Students demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression.
3. Students retrieve and use written information analytically and effectively.

By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission to Turnitin.com to determine any textual similarity to other papers and original sources in order to detect plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com web site.