

Syllabus PHYS 696

In order to secure a Teaching Assistant (TA) position with the Department, all graduate students must satisfy PHYS 696 requirements. These requirements are:

1. All 1st and 2nd year graduate students who intend to hold TA positions must register for and pass PHYS 696.
2. Senior graduate students, who already acquired 4 semesters of Pass grades for PHYS 696, may hold a TA position without registering for PHYS 696. Nonetheless, we are highly encouraging you to keep attending our Colloquia for your own professional growth.
3. If a junior graduate student secures an Research Assistant position or any other type of funding and later on requests a TA position, in order to hold this TA position, he/she is required to register for and pass PHYS 696 until a total of 4 semesters of Pass grades are secured.

Synopsis: PHYS 696 consists of a series of talks focusing on current research topics in Physics and in Astronomy. These talks serve several purposes. They will broaden your view as you learn in some detail about the many different research areas pursued within the Department. They will also give you the opportunity to meet well-known award-winning researchers in an informal setting and ask questions of them regarding their own career path, their research program, etc. Finally, these talks will help you make an informed decision regarding your own field of research and keep up with the latest developments.

To secure a Pass grade, students must attend a minimum number of 10 Colloquia per semester. Your responsibility for this class is:

- For talks delivered in-person, you will need to mark the attendance sheet at the entrance of the room. Your presence is required for the full length of the talk. Please note that the attendance sheet is available before the talk and after the end of the questions/answers session. The attendance sheet is unavailable between the start of the talk and the end of the questions/answers session following the talk, so that the event is not disturbed.
- For zoom talks, you need to create a zoom account with your full name. Attendance will be recorded, but please note that you must log in from an account that has your full name. If your account name is not your full name, for example if you pick a nickname, an acronym, or other cryptic names, we will not be able log your attendance. Attendance may be taken any time, for example at the beginning or towards the end of the talk.

Less than 10 attendances will result in a no-pass grade, unless excused in advance for an acceptable reason. Any academic dishonesty regarding attendance will result in a no-pass grade for the semester and a loss of TA privileges.