**Physics 496—Introduction to Physics Research—Fall 2017**

**Semester at a Glance**

Meets 2:00–4:50 p.m. Fridays, 222 Loomis

**Writing Workshop** is usually held 2:00–2:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted; **laptops required.**

**In-Class Activities** sometimes require the use of **i>clickers, as noted.**

**Homework Assignments** must be emailed to **phys496@physics.illinois.edu** by the deadline.*

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**September 1—first day of class**

Introduction to Writing Workshop—rationale and goals

**WW #1—“Finding the Right Word”**

Course introduction and web tour (MGP) + **clicker questions** *(bring your i>clicker!)*

Evaluating a science talk or colloquium (MGP)

Icebreaker: Standards and values for physicists—group activity

Effective titles *(cme)*

**No homework due today**

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**September 8**

**WW #2—Literature search group activity**

**Technical Writing 101** *(bring your i>clicker!)*

How to read a physics paper (MGP)

How to get started if you hate to write, Part I—Outlining *(cme)*

**HW #1—“Evaluating Titles”**

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**September 15**

**WW #3—“Using the Right Word”**

How to get started if you hate to write, Part II—Building coherent paragraphs *(cme)*

Voice and tense—Making verbs work *(cme)*

Guest speaker—Professor Lance Cooper, “How to Pick a Graduate School”

**No homework due today—GRE Physics test tomorrow!**

N.B. deadline for registering for October GRE is next week—September 22!


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* Deadline dates and times are listed on each written homework assignment.

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September 22
NO WW today—come to class promptly at 2:00 p.m.

How to write an abstract (cme)

Rules for capitalization and acronyms (bring your clicker!)

Colloquium Report #1
HW #2—Understanding a Paper
Submit the name of the professor you are going to interview for HW #5 and a list of your interview questions

September 29
WW #4: “Four-Letter Words in Science Writing”
Avoiding plagiarism (MGP and cme)
Clicker activity: Plagiarism case studies
Reference rules and styles in scientific writing (cme)
Guest speaker—Professor Taylor Hughes, “Life as a Theorist”

HW #3—Abstract and Title

October 6
WW #5: “Ambiguous Pronouns”
Clicker activity: Rules for capitalization and acronyms
How to build a logical scientific argument (MGP)
Revising and editing your work (cme)
Writing for a general audience (cme)
Avoiding plagiarism (MGP)
Clicker activity: Plagiarism case studies

HW #4—Proper Referencing
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #1

October 13
WW #6: “Them Thar Indirect Openings”
Creating good figures (MGP)
Tips for figure captions (cme)
Peer reviewing (MGP)

HW #5—Writing for a General Audience
Colloquium Report #2

October 20
Effective science talks (cme)
First meeting of journal-club teams

HW #6—Peer Reviews
October 27 (GRE Physics is tomorrow)
WW #8—“The Three-Preposition Rule (3PR)”
WW #7: Evaluating figures team activity and team presentations
Clicker activity: What is plagiarism?
Template for a journal-club presentation (cme)
HW #7—Evaluating Figures and Captions

November 3
WW #9—“Making Verbs Work”
HW #8—Short Science Talk (presented during class; slides emailed to instructors)
Have team scribe submit your paper selection for your journal-club talk

November 10
WW #10: “Writing Instructions” team activity and team presentations
Applications—CVs and statements of purpose (cme)
Clicker activity: Rules for mass, count, and collective nouns
Guest speaker—Professor Joaquin Vieira, Department of Astronomy
HW #9 Telling Your Story in Figures and Captions
Colloquium Report #3
Make arrangements for your JC team to meet with Professor Grosse Perdekamp next week

November 17
WW #11—“Shooting for Shorth”
A framework for ethical decisions (cme)
Clicker activity: Ethical or not? You decide
Hard problems—ethical case studies team activity
Team presentations of their cases and class discussion
HW #10 Resume and Statement of Purpose

November 24—No Class, Fall Break

Monday, November 27
Mail your draft journal club presentation to phys496@physics.illinois.edu by NOON!
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #3

December 1
WW #12—“Putting it All Together—Ms. P-style Editing”
Scientific posters (MGP)
Clicker activity: Eliminating fluff in scientific writing
Guest speaker—Professor Jessie Shelton
HW #11 Journal Club Talk (presented during class)
Colloquium Report #4

December 8—last day of class
Intellectual property and copyright (cme)
No homework this week