

**Physics 598 PEN – Spring 2016**

**Assignment #1: Research Topic Paper**

Write a description of the research topic on which you propose to focus your writing assignments and final research talk/paper this semester. This research topic might concern your own research, e.g., for a prelim, thesis, or journal article you're working on, or it could be a research topic you're interested in learning about but not directly involved with. Please consult Lance Cooper if you want to discuss ideas for this topic.

The description of your research topic should be suitable for a general audience. The description should be *no more than 1-2 pages*, and it should include the following elements expected in the introduction section of a scientific paper: (i) a description of the research problem, (ii) any background information needed to understand the research problem, and (iii) the goals of the research.

The final draft of this assignment will be due on **Friday, Feb. 5.**