

Physics Graduate-Faculty Seminar – 2018 – Fall

Faculty Coordinator: Michelle Creech-Eakman

Office: Workman 357

Website: kestrel.nmt.edu/~mce/phys579.html

Phone: 575-835-5809

Email: michelle.creecheakman@nmt.edu

Class time: Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 pm and possibly other special days as needed

Purpose: This seminar series exists for the benefit of the graduate students and faculty for the purposes of: 1) becoming up-dated with certain developments in various fields of physics usually related to our research; 2) giving students an opportunity to meet new people, network and experience many scientific talks to help in learning new information and about honing communication skills; 3) giving students and faculty a forum in which to present their research to their colleagues. *Ownership of the seminar series rests primarily with the graduate students in the department – if you want more out of it, you'll need to make the department step up and provide for you.*

Expectations: Because this class is graded pass-fail (P/F), the expectations are a little bit different than a regular graduate course. The following are **required** to get a “pass” for the semester:

1) There are approximately 10 active talks in our department for the semester (posted on the physics department website and also throughout the building and on the NMT Calendar). Special events may also count as talk opportunities, as well as talks being given in other departments on campus (or at NRAO or in Albuquerque). In general, to count for this course, a talk must be approximately 45 minutes in length, be of a scientific/technical nature, and be fairly detailed on a particular topical area. *Students are expected to attend 10 talks, 2 of which must be in a department other than Physics. About “half” of these talks must be attended and turned in by midterm week.*

2) Attendance will be tracked both visually (i.e. Smile, I see you!) and via the questionnaire turned in for each colloquium attended. While smiling is not a requirement, the form is, turned in to my office mailbox. One is also posted on my website for this course, and I'll give you one today to start you off.

3) Each colloquium will have a “1st” and a “2nd” student host for typically 2 colloquium slots during the semester. The 1st's job is as follows: a) Purchase/prepare snacks and return the receipt to Alta for reimbursement. b) Help the faculty host and the speaker with any last minute issues with the AV equipment, finding the laser pointer, etc. c) Clean-up after the colloquium and put everything back where you found it, or in a better place if it was a mess. The 2nd's job is to: a) Help the 1st get everything set up – including coffee – on the appointed day. b) Help the 1st with putting away. c) And this is the BIG ONE -- COVER for the 1st if something goes wrong. So coordinate!! If the 1st and 2nd fail in their jobs, you will each get one warning and a very grouchy faculty coordinator. The second time a failure occurs for any person, I will **Fail** that person on the course. Remember you need 4 semesters of these to graduate – so let's not flirt with this issue.

A paper copy of the speaker and affiliation (for internal vs. external decision on snack amount....) and who the 1st and 2nd are will be kept in my office and in the front office taped to Alta's desk. *The official*

copy is the one in my office, so if changes are required, I expect to have a conversation **and** an email about them well in advance of the colloquium day/time.

Please be cognizant of food allergies, and healthy snack choices, when choosing colloquium snacks. Alta will explain the reimbursement process to you. You don't need to buy coffee, sugar, creamer, water, or cups. You should notify Alta, though, if these are running low. Plan ahead – you need to make a pot of coffee and carry stuff to the colloquium room and people start arriving 10 minutes early to eat. Alta may not always be in to help open doors and find stuff.

4) Big “Brownie Points” are awarded for bringing people to colloquium. Our attendance is typically pretty embarrassing. Faculty and older graduate students always seem to find excuses not to attend. We rarely see people from other departments or even our own undergraduates. While I cannot give you “real points” in a P/F class for this, I will definitely notice if you are bringing people. Also, please try to attend lunch or dinner with at least one external speaker during the semester. Typically the faculty host will advertise this event in email and at the end of the colloquium. Graduate students are first in line for the meals from the department's perspective, and you will not have to pay for your meal in these cases. Typically 2 or 3 students can be accommodated for any particular meal event – a restaurant meal on someone else's checkbook – score!!

5) Issues – come talk to me ASAP. I don't want to hear it from Alta or one of the faculty before I hear it from you.

That's all folks!