

PHYS 502 Introduction to Research and Scientific Communication
Spring 2015
Workman 352
Mondays 2-4 pm

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Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- plan, design, and deliver a research presentation.
- implement at least one productivity habit.
- write, participate in peer-review, and improve at least one major writing project.

Continuing from PHYS 501, we will focus more of the class room discussion on strategies for designing and delivering oral presentations. In addition to *Eloquent Science* (Schultz), we will read and discuss chapters from **presentationzen** by Garr Reynolds.

Productivity is an important component of any professional career (including graduate school!). Since it isn't taught formally, I include some productivity tips and habits that may be helpful for accomplishing short and long term goals. Most of these I will introduce and describe in class. Some of these, we'll include as part of our coursework to be practiced as an assignment.

We will have one major writing assignment that compliments each student's individual research effort. Each student will propose their own assignment, identify a time line for completion, and specify deliverables, to be approved by the instructor.

Course Requirements:

Texts:

1. *Eloquent Science: A practical guide to becoming a better Writer, Speaker, and Atmospheric Scientists* by David M. Schultz
2. **presentationzen**: *Simple ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery*, 2nd edition by Garr Reynolds.

Class only meets once a week, so attendance is important. Though class is scheduled to last for 2 hours, we will typically only meet for one hour (please plan to stay for the full 2 hours for the times we need it). Class meetings are usually discussion based on reading or on a specific topic. We will also use class time for practicing some of the techniques we learn for preparing presentations—including practicing for presentations themselves.

Grading

Grades are based primarily on the assignments. The major assignments include an oral presentation and a written project (to be determined by proposal). There will also be several small assignments which either serve as steps to completing the major projects (for example, creating a mind map or outline of a paper), or serve to reinforce what we discuss in class (for example, implementing a productivity habit). Participation in peer-reviewing (when required) will also contribute to your grade.

Tentative Course Schedule:

- January—propose major writing assignment and plan a schedule
- February—Design oral presentations, story boarding
- March—Re-evaluate semester goals; update proposed work if needed.
- April—Drafts for peer-review; Oral presentations

Counseling and Disability Services:

Reasonable Accommodations: New Mexico Tech is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. Qualified individuals who require reasonable accommodations are invited to make their needs known to the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (OCDS) as soon as possible. In addition, New Mexico Tech offers mental health and substance abuse counseling through the Office of Counseling and Disability Services. The confidential services are provided free of charge by licensed professionals. To schedule an appointment, please call 835-6619.

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