

PHYC 115 Career Issues in Physics, Applied Physics, and Engineering

Course Description

Introduction to departmental, university, and professional resources essential for the successful completion of undergraduate programs and entry into related career paths. Seminars and campus field trips will provide information about resources related to academic success, experiential activities outside the classroom, and resume/portfolio development. Current “hot topics” in physics and astronomy will be explored to sample the exciting research going on in these fields.

Course Objectives

The overall goal will be to enhance a physics student’s experience in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Students will be introduced to the different faculty members of the Department and their research interests, and to University resources that will be of use to them throughout their undergraduate career. They will be encouraged to pursue independent study opportunities and involvement in undergraduate research. Involvement in the activities of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) will also be encouraged. Through discussions of current topics in physics and astronomy, students should develop a lasting interest in exploring the wonders of our universe.

Course Content, Format, and Bibliography

Content

The following list gives sample course content and typical activities for this class.

Introduction to the Department of Physics and Astronomy by the Department Chair.

Meet with current physics majors and SPS officers to share about “real life” experiences as a physics student.

Discussions of interesting research areas in physics and astronomy which students may select for their presentations later in the semester.

Meet with the library resource specialist.

Introductions to faculty research fields through faculty presentations and lab tours.

Career Center visit to explore resources for résumés, internships and jobs.

Counseling Center.

Meet with college and faculty advisor.

Discussions of the “big questions,” such as the origin of the universe, extra dimensions, origin of life, etc.

Student presentations of current topics in physics and astronomy.

Scholarships, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU's), and Independent Study opportunities.

Format

Class meetings will involve presentations by faculty members and university staff on topics related to course content. Evaluation will be primarily by participation. Additional assessment will come from student presentations on selected topics in physics and astronomy.