

PHYS 599: Graduate Research Participation Seminar, Fall 2021

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Prof. Lawrence Lee – llee@utk.edu – Office Nielsen 503

Welcome to PHYS 599 – Graduate Research Seminar! As you probably know, there are multiple courses with the same number, but point to different seminar series. This one will serve as a survey of research done within the department to help guide you in choosing a research group, falling in love with another subfield you may be less familiar with, and generally to give you some familiarity with the breadth of contemporary physics research performed here.

Course Information

Meeting Schedule: Fridays 3:30-4:20 PM in Nielsen 307 [1 Credit Hour]

Student Learning Objectives: Students should become familiar with many of the active research programs in the Physics and Astronomy department.

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential and expected. **See COVID-19 Policies below.**

Participation: Student participation is strongly encouraged. Asking questions of the speakers in this seminar is exactly the point – to get the graduate students in conversation with the research groups in the department. If you don't understand a particular point, it's likely that many of your colleagues don't either.

Grading Policy: The course grade is entirely based on attendance. Students with no unexcused absences will get an A and students with one unexcused absence will get a B. Students with more than two unexcused absences will get a C or lower. If an absence is predictable, the student should contact the instructor in advance by email (starting the subject line with *PHYS 599*) and request that the absence be excused. If the absence is unpredictable, please contact the instructor via email as soon as possible.

Course Communication: Students are expected to join the Canvas for this course. Seminar announcements and possible cancellations will be announced on Canvas. All emails to the instructor should have [**PHYS 599**] at the start of the subject line. Students are expected to use their UTK email address for communication and to check this inbox regularly. Questions of general interest should be asked in the discussion forum, not via private emails to the instructor. Only questions particular to an individual student should be made via email.

Campus Syllabus: The University's *Campus Syllabus* applies at all times.

Respect: Everyone involved in this course will treat each other with respect throughout this seminar series. In order for this seminar to enhance our collective knowledge and curiosity, this meeting must be open and welcoming to all ideas and questions. Failure to respect our colleagues is in violation of the Campus Syllabus.

Students w/ Disabilities: Any student who may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services in Dunford Hall at 865-974-6087 to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations.

Personal Pronouns: Students are welcome to inform me preferred names and pronouns at any time. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

COVID-19 Policies

As of Fall 2021, we remain in an unprecedented pandemic that requires careful and strict policies in the classroom environment. The health of the community is of paramount importance. In the event that the local situation requires a change of teaching environment, this will be clearly communicated and will follow the guidelines of the university.

Masks: With the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear masks in classrooms, labs, and for indoor academic events required for students such as orientation regardless of vaccination status. This requirement will remain in place until conditions improve and the university communicates new instructions.

Vaccination: The university strongly recommends that all members of the campus community be vaccinated for their own protection, to prevent disruption to the semester, and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Vaccination information and appointment signups are available at tiny.utk.edu/vaccine. The Student Health Center medical staff is available to students to answer questions or discuss concerns about vaccines, and the center provides vaccines free of charge for anyone 18 years or older who would like one.

Reporting: If you begin to feel sick or you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, the first step is to begin self-isolating immediately and fill out the university's self-isolation form. You should contact the Student Health Center or your preferred health care provider. You can also contact the university's COVID-19 support team for guidance by filling out the COVID-19 self-isolation form at covidform.utk.edu.

Attendance **You must not attend class if you have tested positive for COVID-19 and are in the isolation period, if you have COVID-19 symptoms and have not been cleared by a medical provider, or if you are an unvaccinated close contact in the quarantine period.** If you need to miss class for illness, please contact the instructor as soon as possible via Email.

You can find more information and updates at utk.edu/coronavirus.