

Physics 503 – Physics Colloquium
Fall 2017

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Office hours: by appointment

Colloquium:
3:30 Mon
SERF, Room 307

Course description: The Physics Colloquium keeps students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty informed about interesting research in physics.

Course expectations: I expect all students to learn from the colloquium. Understanding seminars and colloquia is an important part of becoming and being a physicist. First, colloquia allow us to keep abreast of new developments, and to remain broadly educated in physics. From my own experience, I know that this is not an easy task. The good news is, understanding and following seminars and colloquia becomes easier the more one practices it (as most things in life). Second, attending a seminar or colloquium also teaches us what works when presenting and communicating scientific information. Some speakers are clearly better than others, and it helps to see the best ones in action, and to learn from them.

Schedule: The schedule is published and updated on the Physics Department's home page at <http://www.phys.utk.edu/colloquium.html>, and on Canvas. There will be 14 Colloquium events, consisting of 13 presentations and one event by UTK's Office of Equity and Diversity.

Colloquium attendance is required: We start with refreshments (and cookies!) at 3PM, and the colloquium starts at 3:30. This is a good time to meet fellow students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty. **Please note:** Three or more unexcused absences will automatically result in the failure of this course. Absences will only be excused for valid and serious reasons, and permission to be absent has to be requested before the date of the colloquium. **Advice:** Stay focused and alert during the presentation. Be an active listener, and **take notes**.

Grading policy: The semester grade will be based on the quality of your written responses to the Questionnaire, and on the quality of your Notes. Extra credit will be given for asking questions.

Colloquium Questionnaire: 50% of your grade depends on the quality of your responses to the Questionnaire. Each student has to fill out the Questionnaire by her/himself and return it directly after the colloquium.

Colloquium Notes: 50% of your grade depends on the quality of your notes taken during the colloquium. The back page of the Questionnaire should be used for note taking during the colloquium. Use more pages if needed, and put your name on each page. For note-taking advice, see, e.g., <https://www.oxfordlearning.com/5-effective-note-taking-methods/>. The notes must also be turned in directly after the colloquium together with the Questionnaire.

Summary: The colloquium will be a one-hour focused and concentrated activity each week. No homework, no exams. Attending the colloquium, answering the Questionnaire, and taking Notes is (all that is) required.

Colloquium Award: The best student participating in this Academic Year's Colloquium (fall 2017 and spring 2018) will receive the *Colloquium Award* on the 2018 Physics Honors Day.

Academic honesty: All work submitted by a student is expected to represent their own work. Students are expected to perform all work in conformance with the University policies regarding Academic Honesty.

Disability statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-974-6087 in Hoskins Library to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

SAIS evaluation of this course is required. Students are expected to e-mail or turn in the "Certificate of Completion" to the instructor to show that they have completed the SAIS evaluation of this course.