Course Syllabus

Course Number: PHYS 599, Section # 002

Title: Condensed Matter Seminar

Semester/Year: Fall Semester, 2013

Meeting Dates/Time/Locaton: Wednesday, 1.25 -2:15 PM, Nielsen 307

Instructor/Contact Information: Professor Hanno Weitering, Room 401 Nielsen Physics Bldg, 974-7841

Grader: N/A

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30 PM or by appointment

Required Textbook: None

Brief Course Description: Each student will present a paper from the recent condensed matter literature. The presentation should include an introduction of the subject, a summary and discussion of key results, a critique of the methods and interpretation, and a proposal for new research directions. The presentation should be no longer than 20-25 minutes, leaving ample time for discussion. As a rule, presentations should contain 8-12 slides. The topic of the presentation should be chosen in consultation with the instructor and should be announced one week in advance. A copy of the paper should be distributed at that time. All other students should come prepared and must have read and scrutinized the paper prior to coming to class.

Central Learning Objectives: Develop critical reading and presentation skills. Learn how to scrutinize the scientific literature, develop new ideas based on recent literature and defend those ideas in front of a critical audience. The class should prepare students in developing needed skills for proposal preparation.

Degree Level Learning Objectives: This course addresses the following degree level objective: All PhD students should be able to write a proposal to carry out an independent, original research project and defend this proposal in an oral presentation to their Ph.D. committee during a public presentation.

Semester Outline: There will be one presentation each week.

Grading: Based on active participation in discussions.

Make-Up Policies: Attendance is mandatory. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the overall course grade. To allow for contingencies (e.g., illness, family emergencies, off-site experiments) students may miss the class meeting but must to notify the instructor promptly. If a student cannot deliver a scheduled presentation, he or she will be responsible for finding an alternate speaker.