Physics

Courses

**PHYSICS 1001 How Things Work (MOTR PHYS 100): 3 semester hours**
Can baseball players hit home runs more easily when the weather is hot and humid? This course provides a practical introduction to understanding common life experiences by using physical intuition and basic ideas of physics. Powerful scientific principles are demonstrated through topics ranging from airplane wings to compact disk players, from lightning strikes to lasers.

**PHYSICS 1099 Windows on Physics: 1 semester hour**
A seminar designed to introduce physics majors to research areas in physics and physics-related fields in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. In addition to fundamental areas of physics, the areas of astrophysics, biophysics, materials science, and nanotechnology will be included. Career opportunities for students with physics degrees will be discussed and the physics curriculum will be reviewed. The course meets weekly and is required of all physics majors and minors who are transfer students.

**PHYSICS 2010 Introduction to Inquiry Approaches to STEM Education (STEP I): 1 semester hour**
Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment BIOL 1821, BIOL 1831, CHEM 1111, CHEM 1121, PHYSICS 2111, PHYSICS 2112, MATH 1800, or MATH 1900 or have a declared STEM major. Students who want to explore teaching careers become familiar with lesson plan development by writing, teaching and observing lessons in a local school class. Students build and practice inquiry-based lesson design skills and become familiar with and practice classroom management in the school setting. As a result of the STEP I experiences students should be able to decide whether to continue to explore teaching as a career and ultimately finishing the remainder of the WE TEACH MO curriculum leading to teacher certification. The classroom observations and teaching represent a major field component and requires at least one two hour block of free time during the school day once a week.

**PHYSICS 2011 Designing Inquiry-Based STEM Experiences (STEP II): 1 semester hour**
Prerequisites: BIOL 2010, CHEM 2010, PHYSICS 2010, MATH 2010, or SEC ED 2010. Students explore teaching careers, become familiar with STEM school setting through observing and discussing the school environment and by developing and teaching inquiry-based lessons.

**PHYSICS 2111 Physics: Mechanics and Heat: 4 semester hours**
Prerequisites: MATH 1900 (may be taken concurrently). This course introduces students to the phenomena, concepts, and laws of mechanics and heat.

**PHYSICS 2111L Mechanics and Heat Laboratory: 1 semester hour**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2111 (may be taken concurrently). This laboratory course accompanies PHYSICS 2111, which covers the phenomena, concepts, and laws of mechanics and heat.

**PHYSICS 2112 Physics: Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics: 4 semester hours**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2111 and MATH 2000 (MATH 2000 may be taken concurrently). This course provides a phenomenological introduction to the concepts and laws of electricity and magnetism, electromagnetic waves, optics and electrical circuits for physics majors and students in other departments. Three hours of lecture and one hour of discussion per week.

**PHYSICS 2112L Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics Laboratory: 1 semester hour**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2112 (may be taken concurrently). This laboratory course accompanies PHYSICS 2112, which covers the phenomena, concepts and laws of electricity and magnetism, electromagnetic waves, optics and electrical circuits.

**PHYSICS 2300 Mathematical Methods of Theoretical Physics: 3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2112 and MATH 2000. Mathematical techniques specifically used in the study of mechanics, electricity, magnetism, and quantum physics are developed in the context of various physical problems. Course includes the topics of vector calculus, coordinate systems, the Laplace equation and its solutions, elementary Fourier analysis, & complex variables. Applications to electrostatics, mechanics, and fluid dynamics are emphasized. Three hours of lecture per week.

**PHYSICS 2321 Mechanics: 3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2300 and MATH 2020 (MATH 2020 may be taken concurrently). Advanced course covering single and many particle dynamics, rigid-body dynamics, and oscillations. Variational principles and Hamiltonian formulations of mechanics are covered. Three hours of lecture per week.

**PHYSICS 2323 Electricity and Magnetism: 3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2300 and MATH 2020 (MATH 2020 may be taken concurrently). Advanced course covering the rigorous development, from basic laws, of Maxwell's equations for electromagnetic fields along with applications of these equations. Topics covered are electrostatics and electrodynamics including currents, magnetic fields, motion of charged particles in fields and an introduction to electromagnetic waves. Three hours of lecture per week.

**PHYSICS 2331 Introduction to Modern Physics I: 3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 2111, PHYSICS 2112, and MATH 2020 (may be taken concurrently) and PHYSICS 3200 strongly recommended. Photons and the wave nature of particles, wave mechanics, Schrödinger equation, with applications to atomic physics; and radiation; the physics of solids; elementary particles; special relativity; health physics. Three hours of lecture per week.

**PHYSICS 2381 Directed Readings in Physics: 1-5 semester hours**
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An independent study of special topics in physics. A paper may be required on an approved topic. Topics must be substantially different. Hours arranged.

**PHYSICS 3390 Research: 1-10 semester hours**
Prerequisite: Consent of department. Independent physics research projects arranged between student and instructor. Hours arranged.
PHYSICS 4304 Introduction to Nanotechnology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3231. This course presents a broad overview of the field of nanotechnology with an emphasis on physical phenomena involved with three main parts: Nanoscale Fabrication and Characterization (nano-lithography, self-assembly and self-organization, scanning probe microscopes); Nanomaterials and Nanostructures (low-dimensional materials, graphene, carbon nanotubes, quantum dots, nano-composites, etc); Select Applications (nanoscale and molecular electronics, nano-magnetism, nano-photonics, bio-inspired nano-materials). The goal is to lay a foundation for a research career in the rapidly growing area of nanotechnology and to enhance student’s competitiveness in the job market.

PHYSICS 4305 Bayesian Data Analysis for the Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. This is a cross-disciplinary course in two parts. Part one covers Bayesian inference as applied to data analysis in general, with a special focus on the mathematics of model-selection in the physical and life sciences. Part two concentrates specifically on the Bayesian use of log-probability (i.e. information) measures to track order-disorder transitions in thermodynamics, and to track the evolution of subsystem correlations (via both digital and analog means) in a wide variety of complex systems. Expect weekly empirical observation exercises, and opportunities for asynchronous as well as synchronous collaboration.

PHYSICS 4306 Nanoscience Practicals: 1-3 semester hours
Studies of Nanoscience characterization, synthesis, modeling techniques designed for clients of these tools, as well as for technical users interested in a current overview. Course consists of a set of 1/3 semester modules. Check with the instructor on more specialized modules, (e.g. on materials microscopy), if interested. Each module will cover instrumentation, current applications, weaknesses, and will involve lab visits for hands-on experience, weekly web interaction and classroom hours.

PHYSICS 4310 Modern Electronics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 2112. This course is an integrated recitation/laboratory study of modern analog and digital electronics with emphasis on integrated circuits, which consist of active and passive electrical circuit elements integrated on a single semiconductor substrate. This course includes the study of the properties of the various specialized electronic devices that are constructed with integrated circuits along with a study of the various circuit elements. This course has four contact hours of lecture/laboratory per week.

PHYSICS 4311 Advanced Physics Laboratory I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Advanced standing with at least nine completed hours of Physics at or above the 3000 level. Physics majors are introduced to the experimental techniques used in research. A student will choose and do several special problems during the semester. Six hours laboratory per week.

PHYSICS 4323 Modern Optics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 3223. A study of modern optics including diffraction theory, polarization, light propagation in solids, quantum optics, and coherence.

PHYSICS 4331 Intro to Quantum Mechanics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3200 and PHYSICS 3231. Photonics and the wave nature of particles; wave mechanics, Schroedinger equation, operator and matrix formulations, and Dirac notation; applications to single particle systems, atomic physics, and spectroscopy.

PHYSICS 4341 Thermal and Statistical Physics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: MATH 2000 and PHYSICS 3231. Introduction to statistical mechanics, classical thermodynamics, and kinetic theory.

PHYSICS 4343 Selected Topics in Physics I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221, PHYSICS 3223, PHYSICS 3231, PHYSICS 4341. Topics include special phenomena for research areas such as physics of waves, biophysics, nonlinear physics, geophysical fluid dynamics and the atmospheric sciences treated by methods of advanced mechanics, electromagnetism, statistical mechanics, thermodynamics and quantum mechanics. Three hours of lecture per week.

PHYSICS 4347 Introduction to Biophysics: 4 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3231, BIOL 1821, and BIOL 1831; or permission of instructor. Introduction to the application of physical principles to problems in biology. The course will cover topics such as ion transport, protein folding, molecular motors, collective dynamics and self-assembly of biological systems, x-ray crystallography and NMR, a survey of medical imaging techniques, the relation between nonlinear dynamics and electrophysiology in the heart and brain, and physics-based approaches to modeling gene networks and evolutionary dynamics.

PHYSICS 4350 Computational Physics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221, PHYSICS 3223, PHYSICS 4331 and MATH 2450. This course explains how to solve physics-based problems using computational techniques. Mechanics, electrodynamics, and quantum physics problems are solved by (1) numerically solving ordinary and partial differential equations, (2) using Fourier analysis, and (3) solving eigenvalue problems.

PHYSICS 4351 Elementary Solid State Physics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 4331. Theoretical and experimental aspects of solid state physics, including one-dimensional band theory of solids; electron emission from metals and semiconductors; electrical and thermal conductivity of solids.

PHYSICS 4353 Physics of Fluids: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221, PHYSICS 3223, and PHYSICS 4341, or consent of instructor. Dynamical theory of gases and liquids. Course covers the mathematical development of physical fluid dynamics with contemporary applications.

PHYSICS 4355 Introduction to Global Geodynamics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221 and PHYSICS 3223. This advanced course covers the development, from basic laws, of equations describing the many geodynamic processes underpinning geological modeling and geological data. Topics covered are paleomagnetism, plate tectonics, viscoelastic media, heat transfer, gravity, fluid mechanics, rheology, faulting, and geochronology.

PHYSICS 4370 Relativity and Cosmology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221, PHYSICS 3223 and PHYSICS 3231. An introduction to Einstein's general theory of relativity. Topics will include special relativity in the formalism of Minkowski's four dimensional space-time, Principle of Equivalence, metric description of curved space, geodesic equation, Einstein Field Equation, black holes, and cosmology.

PHYSICS 4381 Directed Readings in Physics: 1-10 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An independent study of special topics in physics for senior undergraduates or graduate students.
PHYSICS 5306 Advanced Nanoscience Practicals: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing in physics or consent of instructor. Advanced studies of Nanoscience characterization, synthesis, and modeling techniques designed for clients of these tools, as well as for technical users interested in a current overview. The course consists of a set of 1/3 semester modules. Check with the instructor on more specialized modules, (e.g. on materials microscopy), if interested. Each module will cover instrumentation, current applications, and weaknesses and will involve lab visits for hands-on experience, weekly web interaction and classroom hours.

PHYSICS 5345 Nonlinear Dynamics and Stochastic Processes: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221 and PHYSICS 4341 and consent of instructor. Dynamical systems; theory of oscillations; introduction to bifurcation theory and chaos in dissipative systems with applications in physics and biology; Introduction to stochastic processes with applications in physics, chemistry and biology; dynamics of nonlinear systems perturbed by noise; noise-induced phase transitions; linear and nonlinear time series analysis. Three classroom hours per week.

PHYSICS 5347 Introduction to Biophysics: 4 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing, PHYSICS 3231, BIOL 1821 and BIOL 1831 or permission of instructor. Graduate-level introduction to the application of physical principles to problems in biology. The course will cover such topics as ion transport, protein folding, molecular motors, collective dynamics and self-assembly of biological systems, x-ray crystallography and NMR, a survey of medical imaging techniques, the relation between nonlinear dynamics and electrophysiology in the heart and the brain, and physics-based approaches to modeling gene networks and evolutionary dynamics. Students may not receive credit for both PHYSICS 4347 and PHYSICS 5347.

PHYSICS 5357 Fundamental Particles and Forces: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3223, PHYSICS 3231, and PHYSICS 4331, may be taken concurrently Introduction to nuclear and particle physics. Nuclear phenomenology and models; high energy particle accelerators and detectors; phenomenology of strong, electromagnetic and weak interactions; symmetry principles; quark compositions of strongly interacting baryons and mesons; gauge theories and the standard model of particle interactions; grand unification.

PHYSICS 5370 Intermediate Relativity and Cosmology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHYSICS 3221, PHYSICS 3223, and PHYSICS 3231; or graduate standing. Topics will include special relativity in the formalism of Minkowski's four dimensional space-time, Principle of Equivalence, geodesic equation, Einstein Field Equation, black holes, and cosmology. Differential geometry from metric description to Riemann curvature tensor will be studied.

PHYSICS 5402 Introduction to Mathematical Physics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing in physics or consent of instructor A course covering mathematical techniques as applied in advanced theoretical physics including generalized vector spaces and their dual spaces, linear operators and functionals, generalized functions, spectral decomposition of operators, tensor analysis, and complex variables. Three hours of lecture per week.

PHYSICS 5403 Principles of Mathematical Physics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing in physics or consent of instructor. Boundary value problems; Stru-m-Liouville theory and orthogonal functions; Green's function techniques; and introduction to group theory with emphasis on representations of Lie Algebras. Three hours of lecture per week.

PHYSICS 6300 Master's Thesis: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Thesis work under the supervision of a faculty member. The course is designed for those students intending to present a thesis as part of their M.S. program. Students who do not write a thesis cannot apply PHYSICS 6300 to a degree. This course transfers to the Cooperative Ph.D. program as three research credits.

PHYSICS 6400 Special Problems: 1-5 semester hours
Must have faculty mentor and approval of Department Chairperson. A study of special topics in physics for graduate students.

PHYSICS 6401 Special Topics: 1-4 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. This course is designed to give the department an opportunity to test a new course.

PHYSICS 6409 Theoretical Mechanics I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 3221. Classical mechanics, methods of Newton, Lagrange, and Hamilton applied to motion of particles and rigid bodies, elasticity, hydrodynamics.

PHYSICS 6410 Seminar: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Approval of Department Chair. Discussion of current topics.

PHYSICS 6411 Electrodynamics I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 3223. A rigorous development of the fundamentals of electrostatics, magnetostatics, Maxwell's equations, Green's functions, boundary value problems, multipoles, conservation laws.

PHYSICS 6413 Statistical Mechanics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 4331, PHYSICS 4341. A study of statistical ensembles; Maxwell-Boltzmann, Fermi-Dirac and Einstein-Bose distribution laws, application to some physical systems.

PHYSICS 6423 Electrodynamics II: 3 semester hours

PHYSICS 6461 Quantum Mechanics I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 4331. A study of the Schroedinger wave equation, operators and matrices, perturbation theory, collision and scattering problems.

PHYSICS 6463 Quantum Mechanics II: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 6461. Continuation of PHYSICS 6461. To include such topics as Pauli Spin-Operator Theory, classification of atomic states, introduction to field quantization, and Dirac Electron Theory.

PHYSICS 6481 Physics of Solid State: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 6461. Crystal symmetry, point and space groups, lattice vibrations, phonons, one-electron model, Hartee-Fock approximation, elementary energy band theory, transport properties, the Boltzmann equation, introduction to superconductivity, semiconductors and magnetism.

PHYSICS 6490 Research: 1-10 semester hours
Prerequisite: Must have a faculty mentor and approval of the department chair. Investigations of an advanced nature leading to the preparation of a thesis or dissertation.
**PHYSICS 6495 Continuous Registration: 1-6 semester hours**

Doctoral candidates who have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation, and are away from the campus must continue to enroll for at least one hour of credit each registration period until the degree is completed. Failure to do so may invalidate the candidacy.