

Physics 490 : Senior Seminar Spring 2010

The purpose of this class is to develop skills for communicating scientific knowledge. There are two main parts to the course. First: reading, questioning, and discussing scientific articles. Second: writing papers and giving presentations on a research project of your choosing.

Professor: Phone Office E-mail
Dr. Julie A. Rathbun x8661 AHON 129 julie_rathbun@redlands.edu

Class meetings: MWF 2:30 PM – 3:50 AHON 123

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. You can also make an appointment or just stop by my office. I'll be glad to talk to you whenever I'm able. My schedule is available on my web site.

Goals:

1. To critically read scientific literature and engage in scientific discourse.
2. To communicate results through scientific writing and oral presentations.
3. To supply constructive criticism when evaluating the work of peers.

Text: *The Craft of Scientific Writing* (3rd edition) by Michael Alley

Course Policies: Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated. All assignments turned in after this time will receive a **late penalty of 10% per day**. If you have a pressing reason to extend a due date, you must request an extension well in advance of the original due date. I reserve the right to schedule pop quizzes if students are failing to attend meetings or come to meetings prepared.

Writing: All of the writing assignments must be typed. The draft and final versions of the senior thesis must be submitted by email. MS Word is the preferred form. You must check with the instructor if you want to use something else. Plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated and will result in failure of the course.

Presentations: On Thursday, March 25 at 4 p.m., you will give a presentation of your work for the department. Dinner will be served after the presentations. You will give a practice talk to this class beforehand.

Grading:

Participation		50%
Preparation (HW)	20%	
Class Discussion (incl. critique)	30%	
Research project		50%
Outline & drafts	20%	
Presentation for faculty	15%	
Final paper	15%	