Advanced Physics Lab 3119 / 3129
FS 2018

Instructors:

Dr. Daniel Fischer
email: fischerda@mst.edu
tel: (573)-308-2782
office: 120 Physics
lab: G10 Physics
office hours: by appointment

Joel Peacher (peach@mst.edu) available at lab times.

Staff:

Electrical: Andy Stubbs (126 Physics)
Mechanical: Ron Woody (G6 Physics)

Meeting Time/Room:

Tue/Thu 12:30pm-15:15pm
208 Physics

Goals:

The Advanced Lab consists of two semesters of independent, team-based, research projects, typically taken in the Junior or Senior years. The overall goal of this course is to give you the experience of doing an experimental research project, which includes the development of a theoretically sound research idea, the design, performance, and analysis of an experiment, and both oral and written presentation of the results. These are all critical elements in the research world for either applied or basic researchers and will help you to develop and deepen the understanding of scientific methodology.

Major components of the course:

- Short written research proposal
The objective of this proposal is to convince your instructor that your project is interesting and feasible with the given resources. It should include the following:
  - Names of investigators
  - Background and scientific question of the research project
  - Possible experimental realization and measurement scheme
  - Expected outcome (hypothesis) of the experiment
Setup of the experiment, measurement, and documentation (Individual notebooks)
All research must be documented. The object is to be able to prove that the research was actually done. This is one of the most critical skills a researcher must have. Without proper documentation it is impossible to later write a paper about the research that has been done. In this class, your individual notebook is the proof that you participated in the research.

Midterm presentation
This presentation is the first of two talks which will give you practice speaking to a group of peers. The objective is to give an introduction in your research project, present any preliminary results you have, describe the work you hope to accomplish in the rest of semester, and try to convince a friendly yet skeptical group of people that you know what you are talking about.

Final report
This report should be written as if you were going to submit a paper to a scientific journal. It should contain the following elements:
- Abstract: conveys full report concisely and effectively
- Introduction: includes background/hypothesis/predictions
- Methods: give enough detail to allow for replication
- Results: include description of findings/visuals/tables/statistics
- Discussion: relate results to hypothesis & predictions/discuss outcome
Moreover, the report should be technically sound (grammar, spelling conciseness, etc.) and contain proper citations where required.
In writing this document you will rely on your notebooks, which will contain all the details of your work. The best is to be working on the final report throughout the semester.

Final presentation
In this talk you will present the work you accomplished in this course. Similar to the final report, it should contain the following elements:
- Introduction: establish motivation/hypothesis/prediction
- Methods: explain in detail
- Results: describe findings with supporting detail/visuals/tables/statistics
- Discussion: Discuss outcome/respond to Q & A
This talk should be presented with organized slides and effectively using visuals, diagrams, or tables. Being able to clearly explain your research to others is an imperative skill for all scientists.

Teamwork
All experimental research projects rely on the effective cooperation of several individuals. The advanced lab is ideal environment to train your teamwork skills. Therefore, research projects should typically be done in groups of 2-3 students which are formed at the beginning of the semester. Even though a clear assignment of tasks in the team is effective and desirable, it is important that all the students of one group contribute equally to developing the research idea, writing the lab report and doing the midterm and final presentations.

Grades:
Your grade will be based on the sum of the components listed above. It will NOT directly be based on the success of your research project. However, your grade will depend on you being able to prove that you were an active participant in the research project and showing an understanding of the scientific methodology.
Course points:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15 P</th>
<th>15 P</th>
<th>15 P</th>
<th>25 P</th>
<th>30 P</th>
<th>100 P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>midterm presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overall experimental work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 90 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 80 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥ 70 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥ 60 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due dates:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/31/2018</td>
<td>Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/09/2018</td>
<td>Midterm presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/04/2018</td>
<td>Final presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/2018</td>
<td>Final report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Safety:  

Safety is everyone's responsibility. The instructors and staff do their utmost to ensure a safe learning environment, but in the end it is your skin. Students should always consider any potential risks involved in an experiment, e.g. those associated with the use of high voltages, chemicals, radioactive sources, lasers, ultraviolet light, cryogenic fluids, heating elements, heavy equipment, heavy metals, cutting edges, particulate dust, intense sound, high pressure gas, or vacuum. Any technical instrumentation may only be operated after approval of the instructors or staff. Lasers, chemicals, radioactive sources, liquid nitrogen, etc., may only be handled after the corresponding safety training. **Food and drinks are not allowed in the laboratory.** All safety related incidents, including close calls, must be reported to the instructors.

Disability support service:  

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, you are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor early in the semester. You will need to request that the Disability Services staff ([http://dss.mst.edu](http://dss.mst.edu), 203 Norwood Hall, 341-6655, dss@mst.edu) send a letter to the instructor verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need before your accommodation can be arranged.

Academic Dishonesty:  

You should behave as responsible scholars and scientists. Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, or sabotage is unethical and unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. For more detail see p. 27 of the Student Academic Regulations 2017 which are available at:  

Emergency exits:
Please familiarize yourself with the classroom emergency exists shown on the egress maps posted on-line at: http://registrar.mst.edu/links/egress/.

Complaints:
Should be directed to Dr. Vojta (102 Physics, vojtat@mst.edu)