

Senior Independent Research Syllabus – Physics 494, 1 credit – 6 hours/week

Research Advisor: TBA

Meeting Times: Once each week as a group, other TBA

Topic: You have done the research previously. Your senior seminar project will consist of a writing a paper on research previously done, and a coherent presentation on this research.

The components will contribute to your final grade in this way:

**Progress: Writing 20%** - oral reports of progress and what you will be doing in the following week will be made at our weekly group meeting; *reasonable work and progress must be shown each week*

**Final Paper 40%**

**Final Presentation 40%**

Week Due	Task	Actual Due Date
TBA	Progress report each week	
Week 1	Outline of paper	
	Make library appointment to learn lit search	
Week 2	Complete Literature Search – article summaries	
	Literature Review Sub-Section written	
Week 3	Write Chapter 1 – Background and Significance	
Week 4	Write Chapter 2 – Material and Methods	
Week 6	Write Sections - Results, Discussion, Conclusion/Draft Paper	
Week 6	Draft Talk, Practice at least twice	
Week 7 Thursday, 4 pm	Final Presentation	
Last Day of Finals	Final Paper Due	
Spring	Symposium Presentation	
Spring	Senior Dinner - after symposium (F) or before academic awards (W) in spring	

Guidelines:

Reminder from Physics Seminar of general guidelines:

<http://physics.randolphcollege.edu/psheldon/classes/p495/>

Research

We will have weekly group research meetings at which each senior will report on their progress in the past week and what they plan to do in the following week. These are informal, weekly reports. Each student must also do one formal oral report (approximately 30 minutes) during these research group meetings each semester they are doing research.

Final Paper

Minimum 20 pages. Length depends on subject and commitment to the project. A significant component of this will be background, literature, theory. Use Word or some typesetting program to write it up. You can find formatting information in the style guide at above PHY 495 link. You must print a bound, paper copy for each member of the Department (check with faculty if they would prefer electronic).

Final Presentation: Project will culminate with an oral presentation or a poster, which also will be presented at Symposium of Artists and Scholars in the spring.