

PHYS 698
Physics Seminars
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Can Ataca
E-mail: ataca@umbc.edu (expect a response in 48 hours, excluding breaks and weekends)
Office: PHYS 315
Office phone: 410-455-2821
Office hours: Wednesday 10:00-10:30 AM or by appointment for a specific time
Time: Wednesday 3:30-5:30 PM
Classroom: Physics 401 – Seminar Room

Course Objectives: As faculty members in the department, we invite 13 researchers (each semester) from diverse fields. The objective of this course is to attend and follow scientific presentations given by experts. The goals are to broaden your research portfolio, get exposure to new/challenging research questions and observe how scientists are tackling these questions.

Course Format: Each seminar consists of three parts: (i) colloquium presentation, (ii) Q&A sessions with the speaker and (iii) written reports including a summary and a future directions section. You have to attend both (i) and (ii) parts.

Assignments: After every colloquium, written reports are to be uploaded to the blackboard. The deadline for submission is on Friday midnight of the same week of the talk. The written assignments should consist of two sections:

-**Summary:** In this part, you should answer the following questions: What was the talk about and why is it interesting? What are the main results that were presented?

-**Future Directions:** In this part, you should answer the following question: If you had done the same research as the colloquium speaker and had the same preliminary research data as presented in the colloquium, what would be the next BIG research direction/question you would pursue/answer in the next couple of months/years?

Each section should be one paragraph and the assignment must not exceed 500 words in total.

Grades: You will get 0, 1 or 1.5 points from each assignment. 0 point is given for incorrect statements, incomplete summaries, insufficient reflections and/or obvious plagiarism. 1 point is given to students who successfully submitted/completed 'summary' section of the assignment. 1.5 points are given for having a successful summary and a 'reasonable' future directions section. Please be aware that I will expect the written submissions to be on the highest academic level.

The final grade of this course is pass or fail. To pass this course, you should:

- Attend at least 11 seminar talks,
- Submit at least 9 assignments,
- Collect at least 12 points from the assignments.

Incomplete, I, is given only in exceptional cases which requires legal documents (medical report, police report etc.) regarding why you couldn't join enough colloquium talks. To be considered for an I, you must have attended at least 7 talks, submitted 7 assignments and collected a minimum of 8 points. Late submissions will be accepted, but for every day you are being late, you will lose 0.3 points/day.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students are responsible for checking their academic e-mails and the Blackboard page of the course daily for getting updates about the course, grades, homeworks and class notes.
- Students have to attend the colloquium talk and the following Q&A session each week.

Academic Integrity:

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Director.

Disabilities:

- If you have any condition such as a physical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as described or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me ASAP, but definitely during the first two weeks of classes.