

PHYS 698

Physics Seminars

Spring 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Can Ataca

E-mail: ataca@umbc.edu (expect a response in 48 hours, excluding breaks and weekends)

Office: PHYS 315

Office hours: Wednesday 3:00 PM or by appointment for a specific time

Time: Wednesday 3:30-5:30 PM

Format: Due to Covid-19 pandemic, we offered colloquium speakers both face-to-face and online presentation options. Depending on their preferences, some colloquium seminars will be online and some of them will be face-to-face. Since some of the speakers prefer to make online/face-to-face presentation decision right before their talk, I will inform you a week before if the next colloquium will be online or face-to-face. Face-to-face seminars will NOT be streamed online.

Classroom:

PHYS 401 (Capacity 35 People)

Over-flow room: PHYS 226 (Capacity 30 People)

Online Meeting Details:

UMBC Department of Physics-Colloquium Seminars

Hosted by Can Ataca

<https://umbc.webex.com/umbc/j.php?MTID=m3000a2cfcc900d12cec0d02b930edf96>

Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022 3:15 pm | 2 hours 15 minutes | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Occurs every Wednesday effective 2/2/2022 until 5/11/2022 from 3:15 PM to 5:30 PM, (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2621 955 5740

Password: uPJX6JMQg69

Join by video system

Dial 26219555740@umbc.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 262 195 55740

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?

Summary section should be one paragraph and the future directions section should not be longer than 5 sentences. 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.

COVID-19: Safety Expectations and Guidelines:

UMBC has set clear expectations for masking while on campus that include the requirement that you must wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth in all classrooms regardless of your vaccination status. This is to protect your health and safety as well as the health and safety of your classmates, instructor, and the university community. Anyone attending class without a mask or wearing one improperly will be asked by the instructor to put on a mask or fix their mask in the appropriate position. Any student that refuses to comply with this directive will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and failure to do so will result in the instructor requesting the assistance of the University Police. Students who refuse to wear masks may be referred to Student Conduct and Community Standards and may face disciplinary action for violations of the Code of Student Conduct, specifically, Rule 2: Behavior Which Jeopardizes the Health or Safety of Self or Others and Rule 16: Failure to Comply with the Request of a University Official. UMBC's on-campus safety protocols, including masking requirements, are subject to change in response to the evolving situation with Covid-19.

Covid-related Classroom Absences: Class absences may take the form of not attending an in-person class or a scheduled synchronous online class; or not participating in online class activities (synchronous or asynchronous). Students who are absent from class due to COVID-19-related situations are expected to communicate directly with the course instructor. Students should submit notification of the absence in writing to their instructor either prior to the absence or as soon afterwards as possible. If the COVID-19 related absence coincides with graded work (e.g., homework, in-class activities, quizzes, presentations, activities, etc.), students should work with the instructor to arrange for an academic accommodation. It is important to affirm that class absences, COVID-19-related or not, do not alter the academic requirements of any course and students remain responsible for information and material missed during the absence. Additionally, COVID-19-

related absences are not considered a “disability” and as such do not require that students seek accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services.

Classroom Management: Since physical distancing is a key campus safety measure, classrooms have capacities that limit attendance to allow for distancing. The occupancy limit will be posted outside the classroom. Instructors may distribute students within the classroom or rearrange the furniture for pedagogical purposes as long as occupants can maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distancing. If furniture is moved it should be returned to its original location for the next class. Additional information on UMBC’s guidance on physical distancing is available [here](#).

Cleaning supplies will be available in each classroom. These supplies include disinfecting wipes or spray bottles with paper towels. The wipe dispensers have stickers on them with the work control number for Facilities Management so that faculty can call if there is any problem with the dispensers. They will also be checked on a daily basis. Instructors should encourage students to wipe down their seats and work surfaces before the class begins. If there are concerns about chemical sensitivity to the classroom cleaning materials, please reach out to the [Office of Environmental Safety and Health](#).

Classroom windows should not be opened as this has the potential to disrupt the operation of the building HVAC system.

Technology: Access, Requirements, Resources, Support:

To help ensure that UMBC students are equipped for academic success, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides a wealth of resources and support, including tips for getting online and minimum specifications to consider when purchasing a computer (doit.umbc.edu/students). UMBC does require all students to be technologically self-sufficient, which entails having a reliable personal computer (preferably a laptop with webcam) and Internet access. Since UMBC requires all students to have a computer and Internet access, financial aid may be used to meet this requirement. To learn more, students should contact their financial aid counselor at financialaid.umbc.edu/contact.

Statement of Values for Student Academic Integrity at UMBC

In February 2001, the Faculty Senate affirmed the importance of our values and practices by adopting the Statement of Values for Student Academic Integrity that is placed on most course syllabi:

Academic integrity is an important value at UMBC. 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.

The purposes of higher education are the learning students and faculty undertake, the knowledge and thinking skills developed, and the enhancement of personal qualities that enable students to be strong contributing members of society. In a competitive world, it is essential that all members of the UMBC community uphold a standard that places integrity of each student's honestly earned achievements above higher grades or easier work dishonestly sought.

All members of the UMBC community are expected to make a commitment to academic honesty in their own actions and with others. Academic misconduct can result in disciplinary action that may include suspension or dismissal. The following are examples of academic misconduct that are not tolerated at UMBC:

- **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information, study aids, or another person's work in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication:** Falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating academic misconduct:** Helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic misconduct.
- **Plagiarism:** Knowingly, or by carelessness or negligence, representing as one's own, in any academic exercise, the intellectual or creative work of someone else.
- **Dishonesty:** Lack of truthfulness or sincerity when interacting with the faculty member regarding an academic exercise

To this end, UMBC undergraduate students also adopted the following Undergraduate Honor Statement as it describes the high standards to which everyone in the community will be held:

I hereby assume the responsibilities of an engaged member in a scholarly and civic community in which academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. It is my active participation that affirms these principles and gives them true meaning as well as value in my education. I realize that by committing acts of dishonesty I hurt myself and place an indelible mark on the reputation of UMBC. Therefore, I will not cheat, fabricate materials, plagiarize, or help another to undertake such acts of academic dishonesty, nor will I protect those who engage in acts of academic dishonesty.

For more information on the topic of Academic Integrity, visit:

<http://oue.umbc.edu/ai/>

Accessibility and Disability Accommodations, Guidance and Resources:

Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided for all students with a qualified disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA & ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that would create equal access for students when barriers to participation exist in University courses, programs, or activities.

If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations in your courses, please refer to the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu for registration information and office procedures.

SDS email: disAbility@umbc.edu, SDS phone: (410) 455-2459

If you will be using SDS approved accommodations in this class, please contact me (instructor) to discuss implementation of the accommodations. During remote instruction requirements due to COVID, communication and flexibility will be essential for success.

Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Based Violence and Discrimination:

UMBC's **Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination** and Federal Title IX law prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in University programs and activities. Any student who is impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, gender discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, gender-based harassment or retaliation should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator to make a report and/or access support and resources:

Mikhel A. Kushner, Title IX Coordinator (she/her/hers)
410-455-1250 (direct line), kushner@umbc.edu

You can access support and resources even if you do not want to take any further action. You will not be forced to file a formal complaint or police report. Please be aware that the University may take action on its own if essential to protect the safety of the community.

If you are interested in or thinking about making a report, please see the **Online Reporting Form**. Please note that, while University options to respond may be limited, there is an anonymous reporting option via the online form and every effort will be made to address concerns reported anonymously.

Notice that Faculty are Responsible Employees with Mandatory Reporting Obligations:

All faculty members are considered *Responsible Employees*, per **UMBC's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Discrimination**. Faculty are therefore required to report possible violations of the **Policy** to the Title IX Coordinator, even if a student discloses something they experienced before attending UMBC.

While faculty members want you to be able to share information related to your life experiences through discussion and written work, students should understand that faculty are required to report Sexual Misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator so that the University can inform students of their **rights, resources and support**.

If you need to speak with someone in confidence, who does not have an obligation to report to the Title IX Coordinator, UMBC has a number of **Confidential Resources** available to support you:

- The **Counseling Center**: 410-455-2472 / After-Hours 410-455-3230
- **University Health Services**: 410-455-2542
- Pastoral Counseling via **Interfaith Center**: 410-455-3657; interfaith@umbc.edu

Other Resources:

- **Women's Center** (for students of all genders): 410-455-2714; womenscenter@umbc.edu.
- **Shady Grove Student Resources, Maryland Resources, National Resources**.

Child Abuse and Neglect:

Please note that Maryland law and **UMBC policy** require that I report all disclosures or suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Social Services and/or the police.