

# PHYS 698 – Physics Seminar Spring 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Adriana Rocha Lima  
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**Office:** Physics Building, Room 425

**Location:** Physics Building, Room 401

**Dates:**

- **Before spring break:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Physics Colloquium schedule before spring break	
<b>Mon, Jan 30</b> No colloquium	<b>Wed, Feb 1 – Speaker 1</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 3 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Feb 6</b> No colloquium	<b>Wed, Feb 8 – Speaker 2</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 10 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Feb 13 – Speaker 3</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 17 by 5PM	<b>Wed, Feb 15 – Speaker 4</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 17 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Feb 20 – Speaker 5</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 24 by 5PM	<b>Wed, Feb 22 – Speaker 6</b> Report due: Friday, Feb 24 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Feb 27 – Speaker 7</b> Report due: Friday, Mar 3 by 5PM	<b>Wed, Mar 1 – Speaker 8</b> Report due: Friday, Mar 3 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Mar 6</b> No colloquium	<b>Wed, Mar 8 – Speaker 9</b> Report due: Friday, Mar 10 by 5PM
<b>Mon, Mar 13 – Speaker 10</b> Report due: Friday, Mar 17 by 5PM	<b>Wed, Mar 15</b> No colloquium
<b>March 20 – 24 SPRING BREAK</b>	

- **After spring break:** Wednesday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM  
 Physics colloquium schedule will become available in the coming weeks.

**Course Description:**

This course consists of attending weekly Physics colloquiums given by experts in different areas of Physics. Following each colloquium, you are expected to write a summary report about the topic of the seminar.

**Learning Goals:**

The goals are to broaden your research portfolio, get exposure to new/challenging research questions, observe how scientists are tackling these questions, and improve your scientific writing skills.

**Assignment:**

This is a pass or fail course. To pass this course, you will need to attend the colloquiums and upload a summary report to the Blackboard by the deadline. In the

weeks with two colloquiums, you are welcome to attend both colloquiums on Monday and Wednesday, but you will be requested to write only one report per week.

Before the spring break, all colloquiums will be recorded. Students with conflicting schedule on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11AM (please contact me to let me know), are asked to watch the recorded version of the colloquium. Note that after spring break the colloquiums will follow our usual department schedule and format on Wednesdays at 3:30PM - 4:30PM, and the recorded sessions will no longer be available.

Reports are due by 5PM on Fridays in the same week of the colloquium. Your summary (minimum of one page length) should include answers for the following questions:

- 1) What are the scientific questions investigated?
- 2) What is the motivation for this study?
- 3) What are the main findings/results from this study?
- 4) What is the overall contribution/impact of this research?
- 5) Elaborate at least one question you have about this study that was not answered.
- 6) What is your overall impression about this presentation and research?

You will get a grade between 0 and 10 points in each report. Your summary should be written using a formal scientific report language. Be extra careful to avoid plagiarism in your writing. To pass this course, you will need a final grade equal or above 80%.

**Late homework policy:**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

**Class Attendance and Missed Work:**

Absences from class and missed work are accommodated (excused) in five circumstances: 1) illness, 2) personal instances of distress or emergency, 3) religious observance, and 4) varsity athletic participation and 5) required court or legal appearances. For each circumstance, you will need to present to the instructor supporting evidence (e.g., doctor note).

**Academic Integrity:**

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.