Physics

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Physics is the science that studies the structure and properties of matter and transformations of energy. With math as the language and experimental verification as a guide, physical study has established the fundamental laws of nature that are the foundation of all natural science and technology. The study of physics includes learning the general principles and the phenomena that have been discovered and developing the skills that enable such knowledge to be advanced through research.

The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers a major in physics with either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Degree. The BA degree provides a broad coverage of classical and modern physics while permitting a broader liberal arts education. It is normally selected by students who do not envision a professional career in physics, but plan to enter a professional school later in their academic career, e.g. medicine, dentistry or law, or who desire to pursue a teaching certificate. The BS degree in Physics is designed to prepare students for scientific careers immediately upon graduation, for further training in graduate school, or for teaching high school physics. A minor in physics or astronomy is also available.

Physics education plays a pivotal role in such areas of burgeoning and societal importance as biomedical optical imaging/biomedicine, materials science, and homeland security. Therefore, the Department of Physics has introduced several new courses and electives to train undergraduate students in optical sciences, biological physics, materials sciences and nanotechnology.

Faculty

Associate Professor G. King**, W. T. Montfrooij**, H. Yan**
Assistant Professor G. Bian**, Y. Guo**, D. Singh**
Teaching Professor D. Kosztin*
Associate Teaching Professor Y. Zhang*
Assistant Teaching Professor S. Bompadre*, K. King*
Adjunct Professor Z. Afraslabi, C. Arendse, S. Balasubramanian, J. Beik, J. Burress, R. V. Duncan, L. F. Gomez, A. Helfer, H. Kaiser, B. Kuchta, L. Ma, Z. S. Popovic
Adjunct Associate Professor X. Fan, J. Farmer**
Associate Professor Emeritus C. J. Peterson

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

- BA in Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/ba-physics)
- BS in Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/bs-physics)
  - with emphasis in Astronomy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/bs-physics-astronomy)
  - with emphasis in Biological Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/bs-physics-bio-physics)
  - with emphasis in Materials Science (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/bs-physics-materials)
- Minor in Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/minor-physics)

Candidates for both degrees must complete 120 credits with an average grade of C or better. For the BA in physics degree, students must complete 30 credits in physics and 19 credits in math and chemistry. For the BS in physics degree, students must complete 45 credits in physics and 25 credits in math and chemistry. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, emphasis in Physics, have the option of receiving a BS in physics degree by completing 33 credits in physics and 19 hours in math and chemistry. In addition, students must meet all degree, college, and university requirements including University general education. All students who complete the BS degree in Physics automatically also complete a minor in Mathematics.

Departmental Honors

The departmental honors program in physics provides exceptional students with an opportunity to develop skills beyond the normal course work. It also acknowledges those students who have attained a level of achievement beyond what is normally expected of an undergraduate physics major.

To receive an honors degree with a major in physics, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Satisfy the BA or BS degree requirements
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 and minimum GPA of 3.50 in Physics Department courses
- Complete a six credit hours research sequence, by signing up for PHYSCS 4950/ASTRON 4950 Undergraduate Research in Physics/Astronomy in the first (second) semester junior year and for PHYSCS 4950/ASTRON 4960 Senior Thesis (or PHYSCS 4950/ASTRON 4950 again) in the first (second) semester senior year. In PHYSCS 4950/ASTRON 4950 students will work on a research project, either by doing research in a lab or by doing reading research and completing specific readings under the supervision of a faculty advisor.
- Present the results of the research project in a poster or in a paper prepared in the form of a scientific journal article at a regional or national meeting, to a faculty panel that will consist of no fewer than three Physics Department faculty members, or in a physics seminar.
In order to receive departmental honors recognition, the student must be recommended by the director of undergraduate studies. Upon recommendation, the Office of the University Registrar will be notified that the candidate has earned departmental honors recognition. This acknowledgement will appear on the student’s diploma as well as on the transcript.

Elective Tracks

Students have available a variety of courses from which they may select the required credits of physics electives for the BS or BA degree. The department offers tracks that allow students to specialize in astronomy, biological physics, condensed matter physics, energy storage, materials science, nanomaterials, or optoelectronics. Students may wish to pursue one of these tracks, or follow a general track in which they can choose any of the courses that are listed and are not required courses.

Note: Tracks are not indicated on the diploma.

Foreign Language Alternative (BS)

Students who elect an undergraduate program leading to the BS degree with a major in Physics have an option regarding the College of Arts and Science foreign language requirement. This requirement of 12 or 13 credits (depending on the language studied) may be satisfied alternatively by the substitution of an approved specialization. This consists of a minimum of 12 credits at the 2000/3000 level or above and may not include courses normally required of all physics majors. It is to be selected from an area with special relevance to physics and to the student’s own interests and future plans.

Students have selected options in aerospace engineering, atmospheric science/geophysical fluid dynamics, radiation biology, chemistry, computer science, electrical engineering (circuits or computer hardware option), geology, nuclear engineering, material science, math and other areas. The choice and planning of an option must be done under the direction of the departmental undergraduate advisor.

Dual Degrees and Double Majors

Students may wish to pursue two baccalaureate dual degrees simultaneously. For example, this might include a BS in Physics and a BS in Engineering, which is the most common choice. In order to receive two baccalaureate degrees, a student must complete a minimum of 132 credits and complete all the specified requirements for both degrees.

Another degree option is a single baccalaureate degree with two majors (double majors), which may be developed with the concurrence of appropriate advisors in the two departments. A notation of the successful completion of the two areas appears on the student’s transcript. Both departments must be in the College of Arts and Sciences. Double major options often chosen by a physics major are chemistry, mathematics or geology. Mathematics is a particularly viable double major because the extensive mathematics component normally required in the BS degree with a major in physics, if coupled with a specialization area chosen from mathematics, nearly completes the BS degree with a major in mathematics.

Careful planning, started early in the academic career, is required to meet the conditions of dual majors or dual degrees. Students who complete such programs obtain the maximum from their undergraduate experience.

Graduate

- MS in Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/ma-physics)
- PhD in Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/phd-physics)
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching High School Physics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/physics/gradcertificateteachinghighschoolphysics)

Department of Physics & Astronomy
223 Physics Building
(573) 882-3335
https://physics.missouri.edu/grad/graduate-program

Director of Graduate Studies: Paul Miceli
326 Physics Building
(573) 882-3335

About Physics

At the University of Missouri, the physics degrees are offered by the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Because the Department has a moderate size, graduate students are better able to maintain a close relationship with the faculty. Our facilities include various laboratories within the Physics Building as well as the Research Reactor. In certain cases, a student’s work may be done in collaboration with other science and engineering departments.

The largest research area is in experimental and theoretical condensed-matter physics. Graduates in these fields have been very successful in continuing their careers in industry and academics. Other research programs in which thesis work may be accomplished are biological physics and astronomy/astrophysics.

Research Resources

The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers many opportunities for scientific research in internationally recognized programs, some of which are unique at a university and at a level expected only in much larger departments. The main focus of research is in the areas of theoretical and experimental condensed matter physics, biological physics, astrophysics, and alternative energy. These research efforts are fostered by the existence of the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR), a 10 MW light-water moderated reactor that is the highest-power university research reactor in the country. Furthermore, many research activities involve facilities at National Laboratories such as Argonne, Oak Ridge, or NIST.

Financial Aid from the Program

Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.

More Details

For more details on the Physics graduate program please consult the departmental web site: https://physics.missouri.edu/grad/graduate-program

In particular, details about degree requirements, rules and regulations can be found in the Physics graduate handbook.
PHYSICS 1050: Concepts in Cosmology
This course explores the development of our understanding of the origin and evolution of the Universe. We will embark on a qualitative description of the Big Bang theory, the expansion of the universe and its current structure, the cosmic microwave background radiation, the existence of dark matter and dark energy and their implications for the Universe’s ultimate fate.

Credit Hours: 3

PHYSICS 1100: Science and Inventions
This course covers the history of some of the most important inventions in science and their impact on past civilizations, current advances in science and inventions, funding and policies, and critical advances in technology required for future generations.

Credit Hour: 1

PHYSICS 1150: Concepts in Physics
Introduction to fundamental concepts of physics for non-science majors. Concepts include the conservation of energy, the second law of thermodynamics, and the special theory of relativity. Students learn to reason and apply these concepts through writing assignments.

Credit Hours: 3

PHYSICS 1210: College Physics I
This introductory college physics course uses algebra and trigonometry in developing some of the fundamental concepts of classical physics. Topics covered are vectors, kinematics, dynamics, gravity, momentum, energy, rotational kinematics, rotational dynamics, fluids, simple harmonic motion, waves and sound, and thermodynamics. Three lectures, one discussion, one lab weekly. Students may receive credit for PHYSICS 1210 or PHYSICS 2750, but not both.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: MATH 1100

PHYSICS 1220: College Physics II
This introductory second semester college physics course uses algebra and trigonometry in developing some of the fundamental concepts of classical physics. Topics covered include electricity and magnetism, optics and modern physics. Three lectures, one discussion, one lab weekly. Students may receive credit for PHYSICS 1220 or PHYSICS 2760, but not both.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: grade of C- or better in PHYSICS 1210

PHYSICS 2002: Topics in Physics and Astronomy- Physical Science
Study of selected topics in physics and astronomy. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. Course may be repeated for credit.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: MATH 1100

PHYSICS 2002H: Topics in Physics and Astronomy- Physical Science - Honors
Study of selected topics in physics and astronomy. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. Course may be repeated for credit.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: MATH 1100; Honors eligibility required

PHYSICS 2200: Life and the Universe
This course explores the connection between our everyday existence and the underlying physics' processes. Students will look at processes - essential to life - ranging from the very small (atomic level) to the very large (universe), and the many length scales in between (cellular level and human being level) as well as make connections between the laws of physics and the numbers that go into them and the prerequisites for the existence of life.

Credit Hours: 3

PHYSICS 2330: Exploring the Principles of Physics
A hands-on course covering topics in Electricity, Magnetism, Forces, Motion and Energy. Pedagogy reflects styles used in K-12 classrooms; emphasis on inquiry, concept development, quantitative applications and technology. Enrollment limited to Elementary and Early Childhood Education majors who have completed MATH 1100 or higher.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: instructor's consent required

PHYSICS 2500: The Beautiful Invisible: Exploring Physics, Fiction, and Reality
This course explores the conceptual structure of modern physics from a humanistic perspective. Rather than describing the natural world “as it is”, physical science weaves some key observations in a convincing and memorable narrative. It is not within its power to explain reality, but it can make it understandable, sometimes even predictable. Due to the presence of internal and external constraints, physical theories are akin to myths, i.e., fiction created by many authors over an extended period of time. The mythical character of a theory does not diminish its scientific validity - quite the contrary. Convincing myths are not easily found and better observations demand better myths. The mythical content of the theory is not some extraneous content that we introduce for the sake of popularization, but an essential part of the science itself.

Credit Hours: 3

PHYSICS 2750: University Physics I
First course in calculus-based physics for science and engineering students. Topics covered are vectors, translational and rotational kinematics, translational and rotational dynamics, energy, momentum, gravity, oscillations, waves, fluids and thermodynamics. Three lectures, one discussion, one lab weekly. Students may receive credit for PHYSICS 1210 or PHYSICS 2750, but not both.

Credit Hours: 5
Prerequisites: MATH 1500 or equivalent
Recommended: MATH 1700
PHYSCS 2750H: University Physics I - Honors
First course in calculus-based physics for science and engineering students. Topics covered are vectors, translational and rotational kinematics, translational and rotational dynamics, energy, momentum, gravity, oscillations, waves, fluids and thermodynamics. Three lectures, one discussion, one lab weekly. Students may receive credit for PHYSCS 1210 or PHYSCS 2750, but not both. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 5
Prerequisites: MATH 1500 or equivalent. Honors eligibility required
Recommended: MATH 1700

PHYSCS 2760: University Physics II
Second semester course in calculus-based physics for science and engineering students. Topics covered are electrostatics, circuits, magnetism, electromagnetic phenomena, optics, matter waves and particles and modern physics. Three lectures, one discussion, one lab weekly. Students may receive credit for PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760, but not both.
Credit Hours: 5
Prerequisites: MATH 1700 and grade of C- or better in PHYSCS 2750
Recommended: MATH 2300

PHYSCS 2800: Undergraduate Seminar in Physics
Introduction to the Physics Department and presentation of topics of current interest in physics by faculty and students. Intended for physics majors at the freshman or sophomore level only.
Credit Hours: 2

PHYSCS 3002: Topics in Physics and Astronomy - Physical Science
Study of selected topics in physics and astronomy. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated 2 for credit.
Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 1210 or PHYSCS 2750

PHYSCS 3010: Introduction to Modern Astrophysics
(same as ASTRON 3010). Elements of stellar, and galactic astrophysics. Interpretation of observations and physical conditions of various astronomical objects including stars, gaseous nebulae and, galaxies.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 3100: Teaching Physics
Introduces modeling and inquiry methods of teaching about force, motion, energy, electricity and magnetism. Students learn research-base physics teaching methods, including eliciting prior understanding, facilitating conceptual change, and active learning strategies.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 3150: Introduction to Modern Physics
Relativistic kinematics and Lorentz transformations; historical basis for quantum mechanics; atomic structure; physics of solids; nuclear structure and decay.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 3150W: Introduction to Modern Physics - Writing Intensive
Relativistic kinematics and Lorentz transformations; historical basis for quantum mechanics; atomic structure; physics of solids; nuclear structure and decay.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 3200: Physics of Space Explorations
The course provides an overview of the solar system, spaceflight history, a review of Newtonian physics and law of universal gravitation, the application of these laws to spacecraft launch, entry, and orbit, planetary trajectories, and other special topics. Three focused case studies of actual space missions are addressed. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and MATH 2300

PHYSCS 3300: Introduction to Methods in Mathematical Physics
The course discusses the application of mathematical techniques that students need for upper-level physics courses. Topics include: applications of complex variables, second-order linear differential equations with applications to AC circuits, matrices/linear algebra, calculus of variations, Fourier transforms and vector analysis.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and MATH 2300

PHYSCS 3700: Introduction to Methods in Mathematical Physics
The course discusses the application of mathematical techniques that students need for upper-level physics courses. Topics include: applications of complex variables, second-order linear differential equations with applications to AC circuits, matrices/linear algebra, calculus of variations, Fourier transforms and vector analysis.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and MATH 2300

PHYSCS 4020: Astrophysical Techniques
(same as ASTRON 4020; cross-leveled with PHYSCS 7020). Elements of modern astronomical instruments, observations and analysis, with the emphasis in the optical regime. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ASTRON 3010

PHYSCS 4050: Electronic Laboratory
(cross-leveled with PHYSCS 7050). Acquaints students with the foundations and techniques of electronics design, with emphasis on data acquisition and processing. Topics: circuits with discrete and integrated circuits, active and passive filters, amplifiers, power supplies, instrumentation and interfacing. Integrated lectures and labs. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4060: Advanced Physics Laboratory I
This upper-level undergraduate laboratory course familiarizes students with the methods and procedures of experimental physics at an advanced level. The course covers principles of magnetism, graphic programming and interface techniques, weak-signal detection, and some modern physics discoveries such as, magneto-optical Kerr effect, digital holography and gamma-ray spectroscopy. Students work on research projects in the areas of condensed matter physics, materials science, modern spectroscopy, superconductivity, and quantum physics.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150
PHYSCS 4080: Major Themes in Classical Physics
Introduction to classical physics: mechanics, electromagnetism and thermodynamics, emphasizing the unity and the connections between different parts of it.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4080W: Major Themes in Classical Physics - Writing Intensive
Introduction to classical physics: mechanics, electromagnetism and thermodynamics, emphasizing the unity and the connections between different parts of it.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4100: Electricity and Magnetism I
Mathematical preliminaries, properties of charge distributions at rest and in motion, the field concept, introduces electromagnetic radiation.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4102: Topics on Physics and Astronomy-Biological/Physical/Mathematics
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. Departmental consent for repetition.
Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 or instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4110: Light and Modern Optics
Interaction of light with matter, spectroscopic techniques, wave optics, interferometry, multilayer films, polarization, non-linear optics, design of optical instruments, matrix methods, waveguides, fiber optics, acousto-optic and photo-elastic modulation. Includes both lectures and laboratory.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4120: Introduction to Thermodynamics
Development of the concepts of temperature, heat, work, entropy, enthalpy and free energy. Applications to gases, liquids and solids. Statistical methods.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4140: Mechanics
Development of fundamental concepts, principles of mechanics using mathematical methods. Many problems used.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 4180: Solar System Science
(same as GEOL 4180, ASTRON 4180; cross-leveled with GEOL 7180). Investigates physical states, interior structures and comparative geology of solar systems bodies: planets, moons, asteroids, comets, sun. Solar system formation and evolution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3010

PHYSCS 4190: Physics and Chemistry of Materials
(same as NU_ENG 4319, BIOL_EN 4480 and CHEM 4490). This course will cover fundamental and applied aspects relating to the Physics, Chemistry and Biology of materials with special emphasis on Nanoscience and Nanomedicine. Consists of lectures and experiments in Nanoscience.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and CHEM 1320 or equivalent, or instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4230: Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy and Microanalysis
(cross-leveled with PHYSCS 7230). This course is designed for senior undergraduate/graduate students. This course covers the basic principles and practical considerations using SEM, TEM, EDS, and EELS in the characterization of materials. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150 and instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4250: Stellar Astrophysics
(same as ASTRON 4250). Basic astrophysics of stable and unusual stars, stellar systems. Investigates stellar dimensions, radiation, spectra, energy, evolution, populations; interstellar medium, stellar motions and aggregation.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ASTRON 3010

PHYSCS 4310: Physics in Cell and Developmental Biology
(same as BIO_SC 4310). Discusses the role of physical mechanisms in specific cellular and developmental processes and phenomena, in particular those characterizing the embryonic stage of multicellular organisms. Each process and phenomenon is first described in biological terms and then within a physical model, with special emphasis on the interplay between the two descriptions.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and BIO_SC 2300 or instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4350: Galactic Astronomy
(same as ASTRON 4350). Observational properties of normal galaxies and clusters of galaxies, Seyfert and emission-line structure and dynamics of galaxies; interacting galaxies, quasi-steller objects. Introduction to cosmology.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3010 or ASTRON 3010

PHYSCS 4360: Extragalactic Astronomy
(same as ASTRON 4360; cross-leveled with ASTRON 7360, PHYSCS 7360). This course introduces students to the most basic knowledge of extragalactic astronomy, starting from Milky Way and extending to the
most distant universe. Topics covered will include galaxy morphology and classification, groups and clusters of galaxies, active galactic nuclei, and galaxy formation and evolution.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** ASTRON 3010

**PHYSICS 4390: Problems in Physics**  
Problems in Physics  
**Credit Hour:** 1-99

**PHYSICS 4410: Analysis of Biological Macromolecules and Biomaterials**  
This interdisciplinary, team-taught course introduces basic concepts and experimental techniques for studying bio-macromolecules and biomaterials. A Problem Based Learn/Writing Intensive approach uses four modules: Proteins, membranes, cellular interactions and biomaterials.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 2760

**PHYSICS 4420: Introduction to Biomedical Imaging**  
This course offers a broad introduction to medical imaging. Topics to be covered include the physics basics and instrumentation of X-ray, CT, PET, SPECT, ultrasound, MRI, and optical imaging, as well as recent developments in biomedical imaging.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 2760

**PHYSICS 4450: Introduction to Cosmology**  
Develops the physical concepts necessary for understanding the major recent discoveries in cosmology, such as the acceleration of the universe and dark energy. No prior knowledge of general relativity is assumed. Graded on A-F basis only.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 3150 or equivalent

**PHYSICS 4460: Interstellar Medium**  
(same as ASTRON 4460). The course discusses observational properties and physical and chemical processes occurring in the interstellar medium. Topics include interstellar diffuse and molecular clouds, HII regions, dust grains, interstellar chemistry, star formation, supernova remnants, and interstellar shock waves.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 3150 or instructor's consent

**PHYSICS 4500: Computational Biological Physics**  
(cross-leveled with PHYSICS 7500). Provides a practical introduction (hands-on approach) to the study of the structure and function of biomolecular systems by employing computational methods and theoretical concepts familiar from the physical sciences.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 2760 or instructor's consent

**PHYSICS 4510: Single Molecule Biophysics**  
(same as BIOCHM 4510; Cross-leveled with PHYSICS 7510). The course provides an overview of the biophysics of enzymes, nucleic acids and the cytoskeleton. Topics covered will include diffusion, molecular motors, polymerization and the cytoskeleton and the polymer properties of nucleic acids and microtubules  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 2760

**PHYSICS 4520: Introduction to Biophysics**  
This course introduces the study of biological systems from the perspective of a physicist. Students will learn how to relate the structure of a particular system and its constituents to its function. The treatment of molecular and cellular phenomena will be based on physical principles quantified through the necessary analytical tools. Prominent biophysical methods and their fundamental operating principles will also be discussed. Graded on A-F basis only.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 1220 or PHYSICS 2760 or instructor's consent

**PHYSICS 4550: Cosmochemistry**  
(same as ASTRON 4550). Cosmic dust, stardust, spectra, energy, interstellar medium, meteorites, astromineralogy.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** ASTRON 3010

**PHYSICS 4600: Semiconductor Optics**  
It is an introductory-level course in the field of optical processes in semiconductors (both inorganic and organic) and solid-state optoelectronics, designed both for graduate and undergraduate students of Physics, Chemistry and Electrical Engineering. Graded on A-F basis only.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 3150

**PHYSICS 4620: Introduction to Materials Science**  
This course on the science and technology of materials explores the interrelationship between processing, structure, properties (electrical, optical, magnetic), and performance. Observable properties of materials will be used to explore and understand the consequences of atomic- and molecular-level events. Structure-property correlations, including electronic, thermal, and mechanical properties, will be presented for different classes of materials including nanoscale materials. Graded on A-F basis only.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 3150

**PHYSICS 4650: Modern Condensed Matter Physics**  
Introduces the basic concepts and gives an overview of the latest developments of modern condensed-matter physics as the forefront of (nano) science and technology. Combines lectures and computational laboratory, where students use and develop interactive computer simulations. Graded on A-F basis only.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PHYSICS 3150 or instructor's consent
PHYSCS 4800: Introduction to Quantum Mechanics I
Foundations of wave mechanics; wave packets; Schrodinger equation and I-D problems; operators and eigenfunctions, spherically symmetric systems.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150 and MATH 4100

PHYSCS 4810: Introduction to Quantum Mechanics II
Review of quantum mechanics and units, forms of radiation, radiation detectors, spacetime symmetries, internal symmetries, nuclear structure and form factors, low-energy nuclear models, recent developments.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 4800 or equivalent

PHYSCS 4850: Computational Methods in Physics
Use of modern computational techniques in solving a wide variety of problems in solid state, nuclear, quantum and statistical physics.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 4800 or instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4950: Undergraduate Research in Physics
Special studies for advanced undergraduate students in physics covering subjects not included in courses regularly offered. Departmental consent for repetition.
Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

PHYSCS 4960: Senior Thesis in Physics
Special studies for senior undergraduate students in physics. The course requires an oral or poster presentations, or faculty-guided writing of a senior thesis involving independent research.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent and 3 units of PHYSCS 4950. Departmental consent required for repetition

PHYSCS 4985: Issues in Modern Physics and Engineering
Students are expected to write a major paper on a selected topic from modern physics or engineering. The paper will review the current state of the experimental and theoretical research on the topic at a level appropriate to their peers.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150

PHYSCS 7020: Astrophysical Techniques
Elements of modern astronomical instruments, observations and analysis, with emphasis on the optical regime. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150 and instructor's consent

PHYSCS 7050: Electronic Laboratory
Acquaints students with the foundations and techniques of electronics design, with emphasis on data acquisition and processing. Topics: circuits with discrete and integrated circuits, active and passive filters, amplifiers, power supplies, instrumentation and interfacing. Integrated lectures and labs. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 7085: Problems in Physics
Laboratory work involving study of literature of special experiments in physics. Introduces research methods.
Credit Hour: 1-99

PHYSCS 7110: Light and Modern Optics
Interaction of light with matter, spectroscopic techniques, wave optics, interferometry, multilayer films, polarization, non-linear optics, design of optical instruments, matrix methods, waveguides, fiber optics, acousto-optic and photo-elastic modulation. Includes both lectures and laboratory.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 4800 or equivalent

PHYSCS 7140: Statistical Mechanics
Theoretical foundations of statistical mechanics; ergodicity and time averages; quantum statistical mechanics; many body problems; phase transitions.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760

PHYSCS 7150: Advanced Quantum Mechanics
Advanced quantum mechanics, including perturbation theory, path integrals, and applications to atomic, molecular, and solid state physics.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 4800

PHYSCS 7180: Solar System Science
Investigates physical states, interior structures and comparative geology of solar systems bodies: planets, moons, asteroids, comets, sun. Solar system formation and evolution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760 or instructor's consent

PHYSCS 7190: Physics and Chemistry of Materials
This course will cover fundamental and applied aspects relating to the Physics, Chemistry and Biology of materials with special emphasis on Nanoscience and Nanomedicine. Consists of lectures and experiments in Nanoscience.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760 and CHEM 1320 or equivalent and instructor's consent

PHYSCS 7230: Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy
and Microanalysis
Cross-leveled with PHYSCS 4230. This course is designed for senior undergraduate/graduate students. This course covers the basic principles and practical considerations using SEM, TEM, EDS, and EELS in the characterization of materials. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 3150 and instructor's consent

PHYSCS 7360: Extragalactic Astronomy
This course introduces students to the most basic knowledge of extragalactic astronomy, starting from Milky Way and extending to the most distant universe. Topics covered will include galaxy morphology and classification, groups and clusters of galaxies, active galactic nuclei, and galaxy formation and evolution.
Credit Hours: 3
**Physics 8040: Study of Techniques of Teaching College Physics**  
Objectives, methods and problems related to teaching college physics. Some credit in this course is required for all students teaching physics. May repeat for 3 hours maximum.

**Credit Hours: 1-3**

**Physics 8090: Research in Physics**  
Graduate research. Graded on S/U Basis only.

**Credit Hour: 1-99**

**Physics 8101: Topics of Physics and Astronomy**  
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

**Credit Hour: 1-3**

**Physics 8110: Physics for High School Teachers I**  
This is a physics course designed primarily for high school teachers. Topics include motion, forces, Newton's Laws, electricity, k and magnetism. The course uses research based pedagogical methods utilizing inquiry, modeling, and hands-on techniques. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours: 4**
Prerequisites: instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8130: Physics for High School Teachers** 3
This is a physics course designed primarily for high school teachers. Topics include modern physics and history of science. The course uses research based pedagogical methods utilizing inquiry, modeling, and hands-on techniques. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 2
**Prerequisites:** instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8150: Condensed Matter Physics I**
Crystal structure, reciprocal lattice, phonons, neutron and x-ray scattering, free electron theory of metals, Fermi surfaces, energy bands, static properties of solids, semiconductors, devices, and quantum structures, optical properties, excitons, introduction to magnetism and superconductivity.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 4800 or equivalent

**PHYSCS 8160: Condensed Matter Physics II**
The basic Hamiltonian, Phonons, theory of the electron gas, second quantization, Hartree and Hartree-Fock approximation, local-density method, tight-binding theory, electron-electron interaction and screening, Fermi liquid theory, transport properties, impurities, Green’s function’s, Localization, Quantum Hall effect, magnetism, superconductivity.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8150

**PHYSCS 8301: Topics in Astronomy and Astrophysics**
(same as ASTRON 8301). Selected topics from solar system, stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy and astrophysics. May be repeated to a maximum of six hours.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8150

**PHYSCS 8310: College Science Teaching**
(same as ASTRON 8310, BIO_SC 8724 and LTC 8724). Study of learner characteristics, teaching strategies, and research findings related to teaching science at the post-secondary level.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8350: Science Outreach: Public Understanding of Science**
(same as BIO_SC 8725 and AN_SCI 8725) This course is aimed at promoting public understanding and appreciation of science. The students will develop presentations that increase awareness of the impact of science on many aspects of our daily lives.

**Credit Hours:** 1-2

**PHYSCS 8410: Concepts in Nanoscale Materials: Interdisciplinary Science**
This interdisciplinary course covers basic concepts in nanoscale materials, their characterization, and how and why they differ from conventional bulk materials. The course focuses on neutron scattering methods and uses lectures, problem-based modules, and writing assignments.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**PHYSCS 8550: Stellar Structure and Evolution**
(same as ASTRON 8550). Reviews of atomic and molecular spectra. Investigates quantum radiation law, emission and absorption processes, radiation transfer theory, continuous and discrete line spectra of stars, stellar composition.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 4250, PHYSCS 4800, or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8610: Classical Mechanics**
The interplay of dynamics and symmetry, Hamilton’s principle and Noether’s theorem, Lagrangian, Hamiltonian, Hamilton-Jacobi theories of mechanics in special relativity. Rigid body motion, small oscillation, canonical transformations and fields as continuous mechanical systems.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8620 or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8620: Electrodynamics I**
Electrostatic potential and fields, boundary-value problems in electrostatics, methods of images, Green’s functions, multipole expansion, dielectrics, magnetostatics, magnetic materials, Maxwell’s equations, time-varying fields.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8610 or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8640: Electrodynamics II**
Electromagnetic wave propagation, reflection, refraction, wave guides, cavities antennas and diffraction, tensors, special relativity, the Lorentz group, dynamics of relativistic particles and fields radiation by moving charges, retardation, bremsstrahlung. Additional topics may include magnetohydrodynamics and plasma physics.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8620 or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8660: Methods in Mathematical Physics**
Concentrates on mathematical techniques used in modern physics. Infinite series, functions of a complex variable, differential equations, Fourier series and integral, etc.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8620 or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8680: Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics**
Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics: Thermodynamics as applied in physics, chemistry; laws of distribution; statistical methods of study matter, radiation.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** PHYSCS 8700 or instructor’s consent

**PHYSCS 8700: Non-Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics**
This course provides an introduction to the theoretical and mathematical description of classical stochastic systems with examples from biophysics and condensed matter physics.

**Credit Hours:** 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 8680 or consent of instructor

PHYSCS 8710: Quantum Mechanics I
Non-relativistic quantum theory in Hilbert space. States and self-adjoint observables, unitary time evolution in various pictures, the path-integral, identical particles, Fock space, angular momentum and some perturbation theory.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 8610

PHYSCS 8720: Quantum Mechanics II
More perturbation theory, variational methods, semi-classical methods and application to radiation theory, linear response theory and rudiments of relativistic quantum mechanics including the Klein-Gordian equation and the Dirac equation.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 8710

PHYSCS 8820: Relativity and Gravitation
Special and general theories of relativity. Discussion of accelerated observers and the principles of equivalence. Einstein's gravitational field equations, black holes, gravitational waves and cosmology.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 8610, PHYSCS 8620

PHYSCS 9090: Research in Physics
Research leading to Ph.D. dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: PhD candidacy has been established