

First year graduate seminar

PHY 698 — Fall, 2011

<http://www.physics.nau.edu/~trilling/teaching/fall2011/phy698/>

Physical Sciences (Building 19) Room 218 F 10:20 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Instructor: Professor David E. Trilling

Course description:

This graduate course is intended to prepare students for our Applied Physics program and for career paths after leaving NAU. There are two main goals of this class: (1) help students find advisors and thesis projects; and (2) discuss how students will proceed successfully to careers after completing our Masters degree.

Course structure and approach:

This one credit graduate seminar will not have any traditional homework assignments or exams, although there will be assignments to guide your progress toward meeting the course's two main goals.

Most meetings of this course will consist of a faculty member from our department presenting his/her research and opportunities for students to work with that faculty member. We will also have meeting(s) to discuss potential post-Masters future paths.

Overall, I hope the class will be more seminar-like and less class-like. Don't be too formal, and for god's sake, don't just sit there quietly – discussion is encouraged. Your attendance at every class meeting is expected.

The course web page:

The course web page is given at the very top of this syllabus. I'll post any interesting stuff there.

Office hours (how to find me and ask questions):

Just come find me. You know where my office is. Formally, my office hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30–1:30, but I'm not going to stick too strictly to that. Feel free to make an appointment with me, which is a good way to ensure that we can meet at a specific time.

Grading and assignments:

You will be graded on your class participation, your completion of the assignments, and, ultimately, your success in finding a thesis advisor and project by the end of the semester.

Tentative course plan

September 2: David Trilling (intro)
September 9: Gary Bowman
September 16: David Koerner
September 23: David Trilling
September 30: Randy Dillingham (special time: class starts at 11:20)
October 7: no class (Trilling travel)
October 14: no class (Trilling travel)
October 21: Nadine Barlow
October 28: Mark James
November 4: no class (Trilling travel)
November 11: no class (Veteran's day)
November 18: Steve Tegner
November 25: no class (Thanksgiving)
December 2: TBD
December 9: Discussion of the future (jobs, PhD programs, etc.); wrap-up