

## *First year graduate seminar*

PHY 698 — Fall, 2012

<http://www.physics.nau.edu/~trilling/teaching/fall2012/phy698/>

Physical Sciences (Building 19) Room 218 MWF 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 11:15–1:15, but I'm not going to stick too strictly to that. Feel free to make an appointment with me, which is the best way to ensure that we can meet.

### **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*

We meet MWF for only the first five weeks of the semester. Also, the schedule is a bit irregular (see the next page).

August 27: David Trilling (intro)  
August 29: Skills workshop (Trilling)  
August 31: Steve Tegler  
September 5: No class  
September 7: David Trilling  
September 10: Nadine Barlow  
September 12: Randy Dillingham  
September 14: Gary Bowman  
September 17: No class  
September 19: Dave Koerner  
September 21: TBD  
September 24: TBD  
September 26: No class  
September 28: TBD  
October 1: TBD  
October 3: TBD  
October 5: TBD  
October 8: Discussion of the future (jobs, PhD programs, etc.); wrap-up

To be scheduled: Chris Mann; Mark James; people from other NAU departments (bio? engineering? chemistry?); Lowell people?; USNO people?; USGS people?; who else?