Physics 496—Introduction to Physics Research—Fall 2017
Semester at a Glance
Meets 2:00–4:50 p.m. Fridays, 222 Loomis

Writing Workshop is usually held 2:00–2:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted; laptops required. In-Class Activities sometimes require the use of i>clickers, as noted. Homework Assignments must be emailed to phys496@physics.illinois.edu by the deadline.*

**September 1**—first day of class
Introduction to Writing Workshop—rationale and goals
WW #1—“Finding the Right Word”
Course introduction and web tour (MGP) + clicker questions (bring your i>clicker!)
Evaluating a science talk or colloquium (MGP)
Icebreaker: Standards and values for physicists—group activity
Effective titles (cme)
No homework due today

**September 8**
WW #2—Literature search group activity
Technical Writing 101 (bring your i>clicker!)
How to read a physics paper (MGP)
How to get started if you hate to write, Part I—Outlining (cme)
HW #1—“Evaluating Titles”

**September 15**
WW #3—“Using the Right Word”
How to get started if you hate to write, Part II—Building coherent paragraphs (cme)
Voice and tense—Making verbs work (cme)
**Guest speaker**
No homework due today—GRE Physics test tomorrow!
N.B. deadline for registering for October GRE is next week—September 22!

* Deadline dates and times are listed on each written homework assignment.
September 22
NO WW today—come to class promptly at 2:00 p.m.
How to write an abstract (cme)
Writing an abstract—collaborative activity + group presentations
Rules for capitalization and acronyms (bring your clicker!)
Colloquium Report #1
HW #2—Understanding a Paper
Submit the name of the professor you are going to interview for HW #5 and a list of your interview questions

September 29
WW #4: “Four-Letter Words in Science Writing”
Avoiding plagiarism (MGP and cme)
Clicker activity: Plagiarism case studies
Reference rules and styles in scientific writing (MGP)
Guest speaker
HW #3—Abstract and Title

October 6
WW #5: “Ambiguous Pronouns”
How to build a logical scientific argument (MGP)
Revising and editing your work (cme)
Clicker activity: Rules for expressing numbers
HW #4—Proper Referencing
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #1

October 13
WW #6: “Them Thar Indirect Openings”
Creating good figures (MGP)
Tips for figure captions (cme)
Peer reviewing (MGP)
HW #5—Writing for a General Audience
Colloquium Report #2

October 20
WW #7: Evaluating figures team activity and team presentations
Effective science talks (MGP)
Using PPT to outline a short science talk (cme)
First meeting of journal-club teams
HW #6—Peer Reviews
**October 27** (GRE Physics is tomorrow)

*WW #8—“The Three-Preposition Rule (3PR)”*  
PPT Tips for science talks (cme)  
Template for a journal-club presentation (cme)  

*HW #7—Evaluating Figures and Captions*  
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #2

**November 3**

*WW #9—“Making Verbs Work”*  

*HW #8—Short Science Talk (presented during class; slides emailed to instructors)*  
Have team scribe submit your paper selection for your journal-club talk

**November 10**

*WW #10: “Writing Instructions” team activity and team presentations*  
Applications—CVs and statements of purpose (cme)

**Clicker activity: Rules for mass, count, and collective nouns**

*Guest speaker*  

*HW #9 Telling Your Story in Figures and Captions*  
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #3  

*Make arrangements for your JC team to meet with Professor DeMarco next week*

**November 17**

*WW #11—“Shooting for Shorth”*  
A framework for ethical decisions (cme)  

**Clicker activity: Ethical or not? You decide (use Vijay example from NAS book)**

Hard problems—ethical case studies team activity  
Team presentations of their cases and class discussion  

*HW #10 Resume and Statement of Purpose*

**November 24—No Class, Fall Break**

**Monday, November 27**

Mail your draft journal club presentation to phys496@physics.illinois.edu by NOON!  
Last day to submit rewrites for Colloquium Report #3

**December 1**

*WW #12—“Putting it All Together—Ms. P-style Editing”*  
Scientific posters (MGP)  

**Clicker activity: Eliminating fluff in scientific writing**

*Guest speaker*  

*HW #11 Journal Club Talk (presented during class)*  

Colloquium Report #4

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December 8—last day of class
Intellectual property and copyright (cme)
No homework this week