Physics

Graduate work leading to the PhD degree is offered in the Department of Physics. Students may petition for an MA degree on their way to a PhD. Please note that the department will not consider applications from students who intend to work toward the MA degree only. In certain cases, students may petition for a terminal MA degree. Research is a major part of the PhD program, and research opportunities exist across the full spectrum of theoretical and experimental physics, including astrophysics and cosmology; atomic, molecular and optical physics; biophysics; condensed matter; elementary particles and fields; fusion and plasma; low-temperature physics; mathematical physics; nuclear physics; quantum information; space physics; and statistical mechanics.

At the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, extensive opportunities exist for research in astrophysics, elementary particle and nuclear physics, condensed matter physics and materials science, and plasma and nuclear physics. Space physics, interplanetary studies, solar plasma research, physics of the upper atmosphere, and cosmological problems are pursued both in the Physics Department and at the Space Sciences Laboratory.

Admission to the University
Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master’s or professional master’s degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master’s degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master’s degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master’s degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master’s degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Required Documents for Applications

1. Transcripts: Applicants may upload unofficial transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. If the applicant is admitted, then official transcripts of all college-level work will be required. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) attended. If you have attended Berkeley, upload your unofficial transcript with your application for the departmental initial review. If you are admitted, an official transcript with evidence of degree conferral will not be required.
2. Letters of recommendation: Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. Evidence of English language proficiency: All applicants from countries or political entities in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:
   • courses in English as a Second Language,
   • courses conducted in a language other than English,
   • courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
   • courses of a non-academic nature.

If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833. Official IELTS score reports must be mailed directly to our office from the British Council. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years.

Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply).
Admission to the Program

The Department of Physics ordinarily admits only those applicants who have scholastic records well above a B+ average and who have completed the equivalent of the undergraduate major in physics. This program includes upper division courses in mechanics (4 semester units), electromagnetism and optics (8 semester units), statistical and thermal physics (4 semester units), quantum mechanics (8 semester units), and advanced undergraduate laboratory (5 semester units). Courses in atomic, nuclear and solid state physics, astronomy and applied mathematics are recommended as electives. Not all courses in the major are required for admission. Some courses required for the major program but not previously taken may have to be made up in the first year of graduate work. Applicants are required to submit a list of courses taken in physics and mathematics with course number, and applicable textbook, as well as a list of courses in progress.

In determining the admissibility of a prospective graduate student the department attempts to carefully weigh all relevant factors, including transcripts of academic work, scores on the General and Physics-Subject GRE, letters of recommendation, research experience, and a statement of purpose. We recognize the diverse experiences of our applicants and therefore encourage them to submit supporting materials.

The Graduate Program in Physics is designed for those intending to pursue work leading to the PhD. After completing the necessary course work and examination requirements, an MA degree can be awarded. However, the department does not consider applications from those intending to work toward the MA degree only.

The master’s degree in Physics is conferred according to Graduate Division degree policies. Students in the physics doctoral program may apply for the MA degree. The Physics MA candidate must complete:

1) Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 209</td>
<td>Classical Electromagnetism</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 211</td>
<td>Equilibrium Statistical Physics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 221A</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 221B</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Required courses (19.0 units) must be taken for a letter grade or 19 replacement units if subject waivers have been granted for prior coursework.

2) 16 additional units of approved upper division and graduate courses, which may include PHYSICS 251 and PHYSICS 375

Note: Total units required for MA degree is 35 semester units of upper division and graduate work in physics (or related fields) with an average grade of at least B. Eighteen of these units must represent graduate courses in physics. Neither upper division courses required in the Physics Major Program nor PHYSICS 290 seminars, PHYSICS 295, PHYSICS 299, PHYSICS 301, or PHYSICS 602 may be used to satisfy the 35 unit requirement. No more than one-third of the 16 elective units may be fulfilled by courses graded Satisfactory, and then only if approved by the head graduate adviser.

3) Pass a comprehensive examination (passing the preliminary examinations constitutes passing the comprehensive exam).

Normative Time Requirements

See the Physics Department’s website (http://physics.berkeley.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/phd-program) for expected progress towards a PhD in Physics.

Time to Advancement

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 221B Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Required courses (19.0 units) must be taken for a letter grade or 19 replacement units if subject waivers have been granted for prior coursework. 

Graduate students are required to take a minimum of 38 units of approved upper division or graduate elective courses (excluding any upper division courses required for the undergraduate major). The department requires that students take the following courses which total 19 units: Physics 209 (Classical Electromagnetism), Physics 211 (Equilibrium Statistical Physics) and Physics 221A-221B (Quantum Mechanics). Thus, the normative program includes an additional 19 units (five semester courses) of approved upper division or graduate elective courses. At least 11 units must be in the 200 series courses. Some of the 19 elective units could include courses in mathematics, biophysics, astrophysics, or from other science and engineering departments.

Physics 290, 295, 299, 301, and 602 are excluded from the 19 elective units. Physics 209, 211 and 221A-221B must be completed for a letter grade (with a minimum average grade of B). No more than one-third of the 19 elective units may be fulfilled by courses graded Satisfactory, and then only with the approval of the Department. Entering students are required to enroll in Physics 209 and 221A in the fall semester of their first year and Physics 211 and 221B in the spring semester of their first year. Exceptions to this requirement are made for 1) students who do not have sufficient background to enroll in these courses and have a written recommendation from their faculty mentor and approval from the head graduate adviser to delay enrollment to take preparatory classes, 2) students who have taken the equivalent of these courses elsewhere and receive written approval from the Department to be exempted.

If a student has taken courses equivalent to Physics 209, 211 or 221A-221B, then subject credit may be granted for each of these course requirements. A faculty committee will review your course syllabi and transcript. A waiver form can be obtained in 372 LeConte from the Student Affairs Officer detailing all required documents. If the committee agrees that the student has satisfied the course requirement at another institution, the student must secure the Head Graduate Adviser’s approval. The student must also take and pass the associated section of the preliminary exam. Please note that official course waiver approval will not be granted until after the preliminary exam results have been announced. If course waivers are approved, units for the waived required courses do not have to be replaced for PhD course requirements. If a student has satisfied all first year required graduate courses elsewhere, they are only required to take an additional 19 units to satisfy remaining PhD course requirements. (Note that units for required courses must be replaced for MA degree course requirements even if the courses themselves are waived; for more information please see MA degree requirements).
In exceptional cases, students transferring from other graduate programs may request a partial waiver of the 19 elective unit requirement. Such requests must be made at the time of application for admission to the Department.

**Preliminary Examination**

The preliminary examination is a written examination and is designed to ensure that students command a broad spectrum of undergraduate physics prior to engaging in graduate research. The written exam is composed of four sections, and all four sections of the preliminary exam are offered at the beginning of both fall and spring semesters. Additional information can be found on our website (http://physics.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/_/prelim_policy.pdf).

**Qualifying Examination**

After the beginning of research and no later than the completion of four semesters of research, the student is expected to take an oral qualifying examination covering his or her research field and related areas. The examination is administered by a four-member committee (consisting of three physics faculty members and one Academic Senate Representative) approved by the Graduate Division.

Further details can be found on our website (http://physics.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/_/qualifying_exam_infosheet.pdf).

**Physics**

Expand all course descriptions [+]
Collapse all course descriptions [-]

**PHYSICS C201 Introduction to Nano-Science and Engineering 3 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

A three-module introduction to the fundamental topics of Nano-Science and Engineering (NSE) theory and research within chemistry, physics, biology, and engineering. This course includes quantum and solid-state physics; chemical synthesis, growth fabrication, and characterization techniques; structures and properties of semiconductors, polymer, and biomedical materials on nanoscales; and devices based on nanostructures. Students must take this course to satisfy the NSE Designated Emphasis core requirement.

Introduction to Nano-Science and Engineering: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Major in physical science such as chemistry, physics, etc., or engineering; consent of advisor or instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Instructors:** Gronsky, S.W. Lee, Wu

**Also listed as:** BIO ENG C280/MAT SCI C261/NSE C201

Introduction to Nano-Science and Engineering: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS C202 Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics 4 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017

Principles of gas dynamics, self-gravitating fluids, magnetohydrodynamics and elementary kinetic theory. Aspects of convection, fluid oscillations, linear instabilities, spiral density waves, shock waves, turbulence, accretion disks, stellar winds, and jets.

Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Instructors:** Chiang, Kasen, Ma, Quataert, White

**Also listed as:** ASTRON C202

Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS C203 Computational Nanoscience 3 Units**


A multidisciplinary overview of computational nanoscience for both theorists and experimentalists. This course teaches the main ideas behind different simulation methods; how to decompose a problem into "simulatable" constituents; how to simulate the same thing two different ways: knowing what you are doing and why thinking is still important; the importance of talking to experimentalists; what to do with your data and how to judge its validity; why multiscale modeling is both important and nonsense.

Computational Nanoscience: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Instructors:** Gronsky

**Also listed as:** NSE C242

Computational Nanoscience: Read Less [-]
**PHYSICS 205A Advanced Dynamics 4 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2015
Lagrange and Hamiltonian dynamics, variational methods, symmetry, kinematics and dynamics of rotation, canonical variables and transformations, perturbation theory, nonlinear dynamics, KAM theory, solitons and integrable pdes.
Advanced Dynamics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 105 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Advanced Dynamics: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS 205B Advanced Dynamics 4 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2013
Nonlinear dynamics of dissipative systems, attractors, perturbation theory, bifurcation theory, pattern formation. Emphasis on recent developments, including turbulence.
Advanced Dynamics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 205A

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Advanced Dynamics: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS C207 Radiation Processes in Astronomy 4 Units**
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
An introduction to the basic physics of astronomy and astrophysics at the graduate level. Principles of energy transfer by radiation. Elements of classical and quantum theory of photon emission; bremsstrahlung, cyclotron and synchrotron radiation. Compton scattering, atomic, molecular and nuclear electromagnetic transitions. Collisional excitation of atoms, molecules and nuclei.
Radiation Processes in Astronomy: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Physics 105, 110A; 110B concurrently; open to advanced undergraduates with GPA of 3.70

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Chiang, Kasen, Quataert

Also listed as: ASTRON C207

Radiation Processes in Astronomy: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS 209 Classical Electromagnetism 5 Units**
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Classical Electromagnetism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 110A-110B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Classical Electromagnetism: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 211 Equilibrium Statistical Physics
4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Equilibrium Statistical Physics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 112 or equivalent

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Equilibrium Statistical Physics: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 212 Nonequilibrium Statistical Physics
4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2017
Nonequilibrium Statistical Physics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 112 and 221A-221B, or equivalents

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Nonequilibrium Statistical Physics: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 216 Special Topics in Many-Body Physics
4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2016
Quantum theory of many-particle systems. Applications of theory and technique to physical systems. Pairing phenomena, superfluidity, equation of state, critical phenomena, phase transitions, nuclear matter.
Special Topics in Many-Body Physics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 221A-221B or equivalent recommended

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Many-Body Physics: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS C218 Modern Optical Microscopy for the Modern Biologist
3 Units
Terms offered: Not yet offered
This course is intended for graduate students in the early stages of their thesis research who are contemplating using modern microscopy tools as part of their work. It endeavors to cut through the confusion of the wide array of new imaging methods, with a practical description of the pros and cons of each. In addition to providing an intuitive physical understanding of how these microscopes work, the course will offer hands-on experience with cutting-edge microscopes where students will be able to see firsthand how different imaging modalities perform on their own samples, and where they will be able to access computational tools for the visualization and analysis of their data.
Modern Optical Microscopy for the Modern Biologist: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for MCELLBI 205 after completing MCELLBI 205, or MCELLBI 205. A deficient grade in MCELLBI 205 may be removed by taking MCELLBI 205, or MCELLBI 205.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructors: Betzig, Ji
Formerly known as: Molecular and Cell Biology 205
Also listed as: MCELLBI C205

Modern Optical Microscopy for the Modern Biologist: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 221A Quantum Mechanics 5 Units  
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017  
Basic assumptions of quantum mechanics; quantum theory of measurement; matrix mechanics; Schroedinger theory; symmetry and invariance principles; theory of angular momentum; stationary state problems; variational principles; time independent perturbation theory; time dependent perturbation theory; theory of scattering.  
Quantum Mechanics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 137A-137B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Quantum Mechanics: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 221B Quantum Mechanics 5 Units  
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017  
Many-body methods, radiation field quantization, relativistic quantum mechanics, applications.  
Quantum Mechanics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 221A

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Quantum Mechanics: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 229 Advanced Cosmology 3 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2016
Advanced topics in physical and early-universe cosmology. Topics include the expanding Universe, evidence and nature of dark matter and dark energy, relativistic perturbation theory, models of cosmological inflation, the formation and growth of large scale structure and the anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background, and current research areas. The course extends the material of C228.
Advanced Cosmology: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Physics/Astronomy C228 or equivalent or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:
15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Advanced Cosmology: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 231 General Relativity 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
An introduction to Einstein's theory of gravitation. Tensor analysis, general relativistic models for matter and electromagnetism, Einstein's field equations. Applications, for example, to the solar system, dense stars, black holes, and cosmology.
General Relativity: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Physics 110B or Physics 139 (or equivalent) or consent of instructor/department

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

General Relativity: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 232A Quantum Field Theory I 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Introduction to quantum field theory: canonical quantization of scalar, electromagnetic, and Dirac fields; derivation of Feynman rules; regularization and renormalization; introduction to the renormalization group; elements of the path integral.
Quantum Field Theory I: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in 221A or 221B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Quantum Field Theory I: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 232B Quantum Field Theory II 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Renormalization of Yang-Mills gauge theories: BRST quantization of gauge theories; nonperturbative dynamics; renormalization group; basics of effective field theory; large N; solitons; instantons; dualities. Selected current topics.
Quantum Field Theory II: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 232A or equivalent or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Quantum Field Theory II: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 233A Standard Model and Beyond I
4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Introduction to the Standard Model of particle physics and its
applications: construction of the Standard Model; Higgs mechanism;
phenomenology of weak interactions; QCD and the chiral Lagrangian;
quark mixing and flavor physics.
Standard Model and Beyond I: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 232A or equivalent or consent of instructor (concurrent
enrollment in 232B is recommended)
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of
discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Standard Model and Beyond I: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 233B Standard Model and Beyond II
4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Advanced topics in the Standard Model and beyond, selected from:
open problems in the Standard Model; supersymmetric models; grand
unification; neutrino physics; flat and warped extra dimensions; axions;
inflation; baryogenesis; dark matter; the multiverse; other current topics.
Standard Model and Beyond II: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 233A or equivalent or consent of instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of
discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Standard Model and Beyond II: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 234A String Theory I
4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Perturbative theory of the bosonic strings, superstrings, and heterotic
strings: NSR and GS formulations; 2d CFT; strings in background fields;
T-duality; effective spacetime supergravity; perturbative description of
D-branes; elements of compactifications and string phenomenology;
perturbative mirror symmetry.
String Theory I: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 232A or equivalent or consent of instructor. 232B is
recommended
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of
discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
String Theory I: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 234B String Theory II
4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Nonperturbative aspects of string theory. Topics selected from black
holes; black branes; Bekenstein-Hawking entropy; D-branes; string
dualities; M-theory; holographic principle and its realizations; AdS/CFT
correspondence; gauge theory/gravity dualities; flux compactifications;
cosmology in string theory; topological string theories. Selected current
topics.
String Theory II: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 234A or equivalent or consent of instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of
discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
String Theory II: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 238 Advanced Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2017, Fall 2015
Contemporary topics in atomic, molecular, and optical physics are presented at an advanced level. These topics may include one or several of the following, at the discretion of the instructor: mechanical effects of light-atom interactions, ultra-cold atomic physics, molecular physics, resonance optics of multi-level atoms, and probing particle physics with atoms and molecules.
Prerequisites: 110A, 130, 137A-137B, and 138; or consent of instructor

PHYSICS 240A Quantum Theory of Solids 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Excitations and interactions in solids; crystal structures, symmetries, Bloch’s theorem; energy bands; electron dynamics; impurity states; lattice dynamics, phonons; many-electron interactions; density functional theory; dielectric functions, conductivity and optical properties.
Prerequisites: 141A-141B and 221A-221B or equivalents, or consent of instructor; 240A is prerequisite to 240B

PHYSICS 242A Theoretical Plasma Physics 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2017, Fall 2015
Analysis of plasma behavior according to the Vlasov, Fokker-Planck equations, guiding center and hydromagnetic descriptions. Study of equilibria, stability, linear and nonlinear waves, transport, and laser-plasma interactions.
Prerequisites: Physics 142, or consent of instructor

PHYSICS 240B Quantum Theory of Solids 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Optical properties, excitons; electron-phonon interactions, polarons; quantum oscillations, Fermi surfaces; magnetoresistance; quantum Hall effect; transport processes, Boltzmann equation; superconductivity, BCS theory; many-body perturbation theory, Green’s functions.
Prerequisites: 141A-141B and 221A-221B or equivalents, or consent of instructor; 240A is prerequisite to 240B
PHYSICS 242B Theoretical Plasma Physics 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2012, Spring 2010
Analysis of plasma behavior according to the Vlasov, Fokker-Planck equations, guiding center and hydromagnetic descriptions. Study of equilibria, stability, linear and nonlinear waves, transport, and laser-plasma interactions.
Prerequisites: Physics 142, or consent of instructor

PHYSICS 250 Special Topics in Physics 2 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2015
Topics will vary from semester to semester. See Department of Physics announcements.
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

PHYSICS 251 Introduction to Graduate Research in Physics 1 Unit
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
A survey of experimental and theoretical research in the Department of Physics, designed for first-year graduate students. One regular meeting each week with supplementary visits to experimental laboratories. Meetings include discussions with research staff.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Department of Physics or consent of instructor

PHYSICS C254 High Energy Astrophysics 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2014
Basic physics of high energy radiation processes in an astrophysics environment. Cosmic ray production and propagation. Applications selected from pulsars, x-ray sources, supernovae, interstellar medium, extragalactic radio sources, quasars, and big-bang cosmologies.
Instructors: Boggs, Quataert
Formerly known as: Physics C254, Astronomy C254
Also listed as: ASTRON C254
PHYSICS C285 Theoretical Astrophysics Seminar 1 Unit
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
The study of theoretical astrophysics.
Additional Details
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture per week
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructor: Quataert
Also listed as: ASTRON C285
Theoretical Astrophysics Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 288 Bayesian Data Analysis and Machine Learning for Physical Sciences 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019
The course design covers data analysis and machine learning, highlighting their importance to the physical sciences. It covers data analysis with linear and nonlinear regression, logistic regression, and gaussian processes. It covers concepts in machine learning such as unsupervised and supervised regression and classification learning. It develops Bayesian statistics and information theory, covering concepts such as information, entropy, posteriors, MCMC, latent variables, graphical models and hierarchical Bayesian modeling. It covers numerical analysis topics such as integration and ODE, linear algebra, multi-dimensional optimization, and Fourier transforms.
Additional Details
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Bayesian Data Analysis and Machine Learning for Physical Sciences: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290A Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Seminar: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Additional Details
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290B Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Seminar: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Additional Details
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290D Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2005, Fall 2004, Fall 2003
Seminar: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Additional Details
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Seminar: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 290E Seminar 2 Units  
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290F Seminar 2 Units  
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290G Seminar 2 Units  
Terms offered: Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2005  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290H Seminar 2 Units  
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290I Seminar 2 Units  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290J Seminar 2 Units  
Terms offered: Prior to 2007  
Seminars: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Seminar: Read Less [-]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Terms Offered</th>
<th>Seminar: Read More +</th>
<th>Rules &amp; Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 290K Seminar 2 Units</td>
<td>Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018</td>
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<td>Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.</td>
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<td>Seminar: Read Less [-]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 290L Seminar 2 Units</td>
<td>Fall 2012, Fall 2000</td>
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<td>Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.</td>
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<td>Seminar: Read Less [-]</td>
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<td>PHYSICS 290N Seminar in Non-Neutral Plasmas 2 Units</td>
<td>Spring 2007, Fall 2006, Spring 2006</td>
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<td>Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.</td>
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<td>Seminar in Non-Neutral Plasmas: Read Less [-]</td>
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<td>PHYSICS 290P Seminar 2 Units</td>
<td>Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018</td>
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<td>Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.</td>
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<td>Seminar: Read Less [-]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 290Q Seminar in Quantum Optics 2 Units</td>
<td>Prior to 2007</td>
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<td>Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.</td>
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<td>Seminar in Quantum Optics: Read Less [-]</td>
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<td>PHYSICS 290R Seminar 2 Units</td>
<td>Prior to 2007</td>
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<td>Seminar: Read Less [-]</td>
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PHYSICS 290S Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructor: Read More [+]

PHYSICS 290T Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2000, Fall 1999, Spring 1999
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructor: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290X Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2005
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructor: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 290Y Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2005
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructor: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS C290C Cosmology 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Cosmology: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Instructors: White, Cohn
Formerly known as: Physics C290C, Astronomy C290C
Also listed as: ASTRON C290C
Cosmology: Read Less [-]
PHYSICS 295 Special Study for Graduate Students 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013
This course is arranged to allow qualified graduate students to investigate possible research fields or to pursue problems of interest through reading or non-laboratory study under the direction of faculty members who agree to give such supervision.

Special Study for Graduate Students: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PHYSICS 297 Careers for Physical Science PhDs 1 Unit
Terms offered: Spring 2018
This course exposes graduate students and postdocs in the physical sciences to non-academic careers. Each session hosts speakers who have transitioned from a PhD in the physical sciences to a variety of industries, including data science, quantitative finance, software/hardware engineering, consulting, and more.

Careers for Physical Science PhDs: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Careers for Physical Science PhDs: Read Less [-]

PHYSICS 299 Research 1 - 12 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2015
Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PHYSICS 301 Advanced Professional Preparation: Supervised Teaching of Physics 1 - 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Discussion, problem review and development, guidance of physics laboratory experiments, course development.

Advanced Professional Preparation: Supervised Teaching of Physics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 300

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Physics/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Advanced Professional Preparation: Supervised Teaching of Physics: Read Less [-]
**PHYSICS 375 Professional Preparation: Supervised Teaching of Physics 2 Units**
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Mandatory for first time GSIs. Topics include teaching theory, effective teaching methods, educational objectives, alternatives to standard classroom methods, reciprocal classroom visitations, and guided group and self-analysis of videotapes.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor; may be taken concurrently with 301

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

**Formerly known as:** Physics 300

Professional Preparation: Supervised Teaching of Physics: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015
Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** For qualified graduate students

**Credit Restrictions:** Course does not satisfy unit or residence requirements for doctoral degree.

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:**
6 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read Less [-]

**PHYSICS 700 Departmental Colloquium 0.0 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2016
Physics Department weekly colloquium.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of colloquium per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Physics/Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

**Formerly known as:** Physics 800

Departmental Colloquium: Read Less [-]