Physics 107 Discussion Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30, and TBD
4108 Chamberlin Hall

Objectives: The point of discussion is to talk about what we're *currently* learning in class. It is my hope that discussion will be predominantly led by the questions of students over the topics being covered, so come with relevant questions! I am happy to take questions about life, the universe, and everything *after* class (unless they directly pertain to our discussion).

Discussion Sections: Monday at 11:00 (301) and 1:20 (302) and Tuesday at 11:00 (304) and 1:20 (305). You may attend any section you like, but I ask that if you ever turn anything in to me, you write not only your name, but also the discussion section in which you're enrolled at the top so I can keep it straight.

Grading: You can see on your course syllabus the course grading scheme, but you may be wondering where the 20% of your grade for Discussion will come from. It will be broken down into two parts:

50% Article **Responses** (detailed below)

50% In-class **Participation** (asking questions, answering questions of others, working well with others, listening well, etc…)

Article Responses: One of the goals of this course is to increase understanding of contemporary physics/science topics and to apply what you're learning in class to current events. In light of this, I would like you to turn in a response to an article you find in the news **every week that the professor doesn't assign homework**. This response will require you to find and read an article and fill out a worksheet in which you point me to the article, summarize it, decide what category it falls under, and respond to it briefly with a question or thought. You can find articles on-line (e.g., BBC News online), from magazines (e.g., Discover, Scientific American, Physics Today, Science, and others in the Physics library), or from newspapers. The point is to show me that you've read and thought about it, not to have perfect grammar (although I must be able to understand it). There are many interesting topics being investigated around the world every day, and I hope that this will raise your awareness of them. If you find a particularly relevant article I may ask that you get up and discuss it in front of the class for a few minutes the following week.

Project: I will also be grading your projects, though this grade is separate from your discussion grade. The idea behind the project is for you to look more in depth at one specific topic we will be discussing in class, or to find a topic relating to class that we won't be discussing and learn about it. Thus, this project will require a bit of research, and (as with all research) you must report on your findings and reference the sources. There are many options for your report. The default option will be a 500-750 word essay, but any form of report will be acceptable (e.g. PowerPoint, video, play, sculpture, art, music, etc.) as long as it presents the physics concepts of your topic as well as the essay would. The number of in-class presentations will be limited so talk to me as soon as possible if you're interested in doing this. Each one of you should clear your project with me before you begin.