

MICROTEACHING MINI-COURSE



- **Public Speaking for First-Year Physics Graduate Students**
- The goals of this mini-course are to practice talking up in front of a small group, and discuss the challenges and joys of public speaking. We believe that oral presentation skills are important to your future. These skills do not come naturally, but can be practiced and learned.



People

- **Coordinator:** Jason Harlow
 - Office: MP121B (North Wing, behind the payphones)
 - Email: jharlow at physics
 - Phone: (416) 946-4071



- **Senior TAs:**
 - Andreea Lupascu
 - Office: MP 095
 - Email: alupascu at physics
 - Phone: 416-946-7471 or 416-978-7347



Ben Massbarger
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Email: bmassbar at physics
Phone: 416-978-4400

- **Who?** : All 1st Year Physics Graduate Students + some interested higher level graduate students
- **When?** : 3 meetings, 7 hours total, spread out over Sep. 5 - 21, 2012.
- 1st meeting is 2.5 hours: Sep. 5, 2012 in MP125-A (right now!)
- Each group will then meet for two hours twice (4 hours total), in MP713, once during the week of Sep.10 - 14, and then again exactly 1 week later.



WHY???



The purpose of these sessions is to give you an opportunity to explore your own teaching style in a friendly, risk-free environment.

A video camera with DVD recorder, a black- or white-board, an projector, and a computer link-up will be available.

Each student will be provided with a DVD of their presentation, in case you want to review your presentation at home.

Payment and relation to TA work



- This course is not for marks. Attendance will be taken, and an official record will be kept by the graduate chair of who participated as Pass/Fail only.
- An unofficial ranking of your public speaking abilities (on a scale of 1-5) will be sent to the undergraduate chair to help determine your future TA assignments.
- 7 hours are considered "TA Training" and you will be paid for this.

During the Two Hour Sessions



- There will be 4 students and 1 Senior TA.
- Each student will deliver a 10 minute "teaching-style" presentation on a topic of their choice. The level of delivery should be understandable to a typical first-year undergraduate.
- After each presentation, the presentation will be reviewed for 20 minutes, and comments may be made for the benefit of the speaker.
- 4 speakers with 30 minutes each = about 2 hours

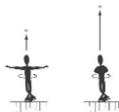


Suggested Topics

- Newton's Third Law



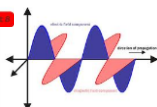
- Conservation of Angular Momentum



- Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics



- Polarization of Light



- (choose one, make it fun, or modify!)

First Session



- Only the 4 students and the Senior TA will be present.
- For each presenter, the 3 peers and the Senior TA will fill out a Feedback Form.
- The presenter will receive all 4 feedback forms to aid in preparing the second presentation.
- Results of this first presentation will NOT be shared with the course coordinator, undergrad chair or graduate chair.

Second Session

- The Second Session will take place exactly 1 week later, with the same group members and Senior TA. Each student will either repeat the original 10 minute talk with improvements, or give something totally different.
- Guests are welcome
- For each presenter, the 3 peers may fill out a Feedback Form and share it with the presenter.
- The Senior TA will fill out a Feedback Form which will be then be given to the course coordinator, Jason Harlow.
- The numerical results of the Feedback will be averaged and shared with the undergraduate chair as an informal assessment of your public speaking ability.



Preparing your talk



- You are encouraged to use visual aids, such as powerpoint, or the chalk-board. A laptop with projector will be present in each room; you may bring a talk on a USB key, CDROM, or bring your own laptop.
- Time yourself! You must not go over the 10 minute limit – the Senior TA will be timing each presentation and cutting you off at 10 minutes.

Speaking Tips

- Be well prepared; plan and rehearse the time of what you will present.
- Have eye contact with the audience members.
- Speak clearly, and loud enough so everyone in the room can hear you.
- Make sure your visual aids are easily readable to all.
- Smiling, open hand-gestures, and voice inflections are okay – don't monotone!
- Relax and be yourself!

