

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.



- **Who?** : All 1st Year Physics Graduate Students + some interested higher level graduate students

- **When?** : 3 meetings, 7 hours total, spread out over Sep. 4 - 20, 2013.
- 1st meeting is 2.5 hours: Sep. 4, 2012 in MP111 (right now!)
- Each group will then meet for two hours twice (4 hours total), once during the week of Sep.9 - 13, and then again exactly 1 week later.



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.

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
 - Ian Chan
 - Office: MP 619
 - Email: ianchan at physics
 - Phone: 416-978-1499



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 web-cam, a chalk-board, a projector, and a computer will be available.

Each student will be provided with a USB drive with a video of their presentations, in case you want to review your presentations at home.

During the Two Hour Sessions



- There will be 4 students and 1 Senior TA.
- Each student will deliver a "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, and comments may be made for the benefit of the speaker.

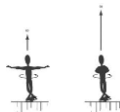


Suggested Topics

- Newton's Third Law



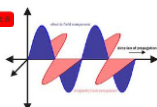
- Conservation of Angular Momentum



- Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics



- Polarization of Light



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

First Session



- 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.
- The final 30 minutes of the 2-hour session will be a discussion and workshop lead by the Senior TA to help you prepare for your second, longer presentation.

Second Session



- 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.

First Session



- Each 5-minute presentation will be timed and video-taped.
- Immediately after each presentation, the tape will be reviewed by everyone, with minimal commenting.
- After watching the video, 10 minutes will be used for discussion and constructive comments about the delivery.
- Each presenter will receive a USB drive with their presentation for their review.

Second Session



- The Second Session will take place exactly 1 week later, with the same group members and Senior TA.
- Each student will give a 10-15 minute teaching-style presentation which incorporates ideas and suggestions received during the first session.
- Please bring your USB drive from the first session, and your second presentation will be recorded for your records and future review.
- Comments, questions, discussion, and comparison with the first presentation will last 15-20 minutes after each talk.

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 time limit – the Senior TA will be timing each presentation and cutting you off.

Speaking Tips

- Be well prepared; plan and rehearse the timing 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!

