

Fall 9-1-2018

PHSX 101.01: Freshman Physics Experience

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Recommended Citation

Ware, Andrew S., "PHSX 101.01: Freshman Physics Experience" (2018). *Syllabi*. 8307.
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Course Information

- Instructor Name: Andrew Ware
- Office: CHCB 130
- Email: andrew.ware@umontana.edu
- Seminars: Friday 1:10-2:00pm in CHCB 304
- Office Hours: MW – PM & RF 1 – 1 AM by appointment
- Website: umonline.umn.edu

Overview

The goal of this class is to present an overview of what you can expect as a physics major, give a survey of opportunities you can look forward to as a physics major and have some discussions on current topics of research in physics and astronomy.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, you should:

While you are an undergraduate physics major...

- Be able to study more effectively for your physics courses
- Understand what an REU is and how to find one
- Be able to run and use the basics of a Python emulator

Graduate school

- Recognize that a B.S. in Physics from UM provides an excellent pathway to graduate school in physics and other fields
- Understand what the GRE is and when to take it
- Have an idea on how to select a graduate school

Careers

- Have an understanding of the range of career options with an undergraduate degree in physics
- Have an understanding of the range of career options with a graduate degree in physics
- Understand how analytic problem solving skills will help you in many different career paths

Class Topics

Topics include, but are not limited to:

Organizational meeting

Astronomy as an option

brief introduction to Python

panel of junior/senior physics majors

panel of physics & astronomy alumni

What can you expect as a physics major?

Opportunities for involvement in teaching outreach

Opportunities for involvement in research

What do physics majors do with their degrees?

How can you prepare for graduate school?

Grading

Credit based on attendance and participation.

[This course can be taken for credit/no-credit only]

Course Guidelines and Policies

Student Conduct Code

The Student Conduct Code at the University of Montana embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community. This Code describes expected standards of behavior for all students, including academic conduct and general conduct, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations. [Full student conduct code.](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)
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Course Withdrawal

Students may use Cyberbear to drop courses through the first 11 instructional days of the semester. Beginning the 16th instructional day of the semester through the 45th instructional day, students use paper forms to drop, add and make changes of section, grading option or credit. PHSX 101 can only be taken as credit/no-credit.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 151 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.