**PHYS 102 - First Year Physics Seminar**

**Fall 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Vanessa Preisler Class: M 9:25-10:15 AM, TBA

Office: Mainiero 152C Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: vpreisler@laverne.edu Calendar on Blackboard

Office Phone: 909-448-4679

**Course Description:** This is a discussion-based course that introduces students to the physics major. Topics of discussion can include physics career possibilities, tools to be a successful physics major, historical and philosophical aspects of physics, and the latest research tendencies in physics. Topics may vary based on student interests.

**Course Objectives:** In this course, students will:

* Become familiar with research efforts within physics.
* Learn about the breadth of career opportunities in physics.
* Become familiar with the academic resources on campus.
* Develop a sense of community and belonging within the physics program and with their peers.
* Learn about a variety of tools to help them succeed as physics majors.

**Assignments:** There will be a series of written assignments.

**Participation:** Regular and prompt attendance is required for this class. Students are expected to do the readings and prepare for class and to participate in class discussions and activities during each class.

**Requirements for credit:** Grading is pass/fail. To secure a passing grade students must:

* Not miss more than **one** class session
* Not miss more than **one** written assignment

**Makeups:** Special arrangements to make-up missed classes can be made for students having acceptable excuses. Arrangements MUST be made in advance. A one to two page summary of an approved reading must be submitted for any absence. You may not make-up more than two classes.

Please see me if you have any questions about make-up classes.

**Course Schedule:**

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| **Week of** | **Lecture Topics** |
| Aug 27 | Introduction to the major |
| Sep 3 | Labor day, no class |
| Sep 10 | Reading club |
| Sep 17 | Time management and note taking |
| Sep 24 | Reading club |
| Oct 1 | Careers in physics |
| Oct 8 | Reading club |
| Oct 15 | Campus field trip |
| Oct 22 | Visit from University of Oregon graduate program |
| Oct 29 | Reading club |
| Nov 5 | Visit from Washington University School of  Engineering |
| Nov 12 | Reading club |
| Nov 19 | Underrepresentation curriculum |
| Nov 26 | Reading club |
| Dec 3 | Underrepresentation curriculum |
| Dec 10 | **Final Exam** |