

# Introduction to PHY1600S

## Basic Essentials for the Course

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# Things you need to know about this course

- Times:
  - Tuesdays, 1:10 PM sharp to 3 PM
  - 1 week that will have to be “special”
    - Week of January 24
  - **Find another time later that week (Doodle poll after I get your emails!)**
- Typical Class:
  - Short oral presentations (by you!)
  - My commentary on assignments
  - More oral presentations
- Assignments:
  - Written will be short (<600 words)
  - Short Oral Ones
    - Hot Topic
    - Joke
    - Extemporaneous
  - Longer Oral Ones
    - 10 minutes or less



# This course has several learning outcomes, all intended to make you more effective communicators

- Understanding how science is done
- Increase your professionalism in oral presentations and teaching
  - Well-established but not particularly well-known practices and guidelines
  - Knowing your audience
  - Practice!
- Improve your scientific writing skills
  - Structure
  - Grammar and composition
  - Practice!



**Practice and feedback  
will be key strategies**



# The pass-fail assessment will be based on in-class participation and completion of assignments

- For a pass grade:
  - Full attendance at a minimum of 9 of our 12 meetings
  - At least 7 of the 10 written assignments
  - Agreed that no more than 4 assignments+meetings can be missed
  - Complete the weekly in-class oral presentations
  - One formal oral presentation
- Oral Assignments
  - 2-5 minutes each, 2 of each every week
  - Hot Topic**
  - Joke**
  - Extemp**
  - Sign-up in next few days
  - I'll provide some examples



# You will work with a “reading buddy” on all of your weekly written assignments

January 17 - 23, 2016 Calendarpedia  
The online calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00
2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00
3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00
6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00
7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00
8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00

- Process and deadlines:

1<sup>st</sup> deadline — following Thursday, midnight (or earlier)

→get draft to reading partner

2<sup>nd</sup> deadline — following day (Friday), midnight,

→return comments to reading partner

3<sup>rd</sup> deadline — following Sunday, 9 PM,

→submit to me by email

4<sup>th</sup> deadline — following Tuesday, 11 AM,

→my comments and review them together!



# Here are some of the bare minimums of the written assignments

Title & Author	Aesthetics are important
A Reader	Direct to a specific audience
Reading Buddy	Choose a different one each week
Sources	Reference as appropriate

600 words is about 2 pages of text

- I find it challenging to write something that short!
- Reading buddies should review, point out weaknesses, and suggest corrections



# A quick peak at the assignments will illustrate how they will support the goals of the course

1. Grammar and punctuation review
2. Critique of article on lecturing; assessment of a lecturer
3. Formal letter to associate chair
4. Ten minute research presentations
5. Newspaper article on science
6. Critique of book or paper
7. Technical Proposal
8. Controversy
9. Job Application
10. Vision Statement



# Some of the Possible Hot Topics

- Canada's role in combating global warming – is it sensible, is it enough?
- The moral responsibility of the scientists of the Manhattan Project who successfully produced the first atomic bomb.
- Edward Teller – hero or villain?
- Is the Canadian government “good” to scientists?
- Society funds the sciences more than the humanities; is that appropriate?
- The ethics of cloning OR Stem Cell research.
- Nuclear Power – a necessary evil?
- Evolution vs. Intelligent Design.
- Increasingly, research grants in the physical sciences are being guided towards applied rather than ‘curiosity’ research. Does this best serve society’s interests?
- Genetically modified foods – a blessing or a curse?
- Is global warming anthropogenic?
- Is wind power a useful contributor to the reduction of greenhouse gases?
- Subways vs. light-rail transit in Toronto?

