



# PHYS 2903 PHYSICS TOWARDS THE FUTURE

*An on-line course based on the*  
**Open Physics Education Module**



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**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday  
6:45 p.m.- 7:45 p.m.

## OVERVIEW

This course is intended for students with little or no background in Science. It introduces physics through a set of modules that closely connected to our everyday life and future.

This course is only available on-line via Brightspace.

**Please note that Faculty of Science students may only take this course as a free elective.**

## COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain physics related phenomenon using basic physics principles and terminology
2. Perform basic calculation/estimations to solve simple physics related problems
3. Make correct judgement/decisions on physics related issues in their daily life based on basic physics principles

## TEXTBOOK

The optional text-book for the course is “Physics Beyond the Comfort Zone” by Peter Watson. This textbook has a number of relevant sections relating to material for this course, but does not cover some areas. The lectures and supplementary materials are intended to cover the course with this textbook as a useful but optional additional aid. This is an e-text book available from Amazon or IBooks for \$9.99:

[https://www.amazon.ca/Physics-Outside-Comfort-Peter-Watson-ebook/dp/B01KYX3A5O/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1472130768&sr=1-3&keywords=comfort+zone](https://www.amazon.ca/Physics-Outside-Comfort-Peter-Watson-ebook/dp/B01KYX3A5O/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1472130768&sr=1-3&keywords=comfort+zone)

[https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/physics-beyond-comfort-zone/id902018641?mt=13&uo=4%22%20target=%22itunes\\_store%22%3EPhysics%20Beyond%20the%20Comfort%20Zone%20-%20Watson,%20Peter%3C/a%3E](https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/physics-beyond-comfort-zone/id902018641?mt=13&uo=4%22%20target=%22itunes_store%22%3EPhysics%20Beyond%20the%20Comfort%20Zone%20-%20Watson,%20Peter%3C/a%3E)

If you have difficulties accessing both two formats, please let me know.

## CONTENT

The following thematic modules will be covered in this course. Each module will help you answer a series of questions listed below.

### 1. Sound and Music

In many ways, music might be viewed as one of the most human of inventions. What is the nature of sound and what are the relationships between pitch, loudness, musical scales and the fundamental properties of sounds? How are sounds generated, from different types of instruments, that create a musical performance?

### 2. Light and Colour

What is light exactly? What is radiation and electromagnetic wave? How do eyes and lenses work? How do we see colours? How do we communicate with EM waves?

### 3. Cell Phone

It has become commonplace, almost anywhere one travels in the world, to see people using cell phones for conversations, texting, accessing the internet, listening to music, and taking photos. What are the physics principles behind the manufacture and operation of cell phones?

### 4. The Solar System and Beyond

The nature of the universe beyond our planet has always fascinated humans. How do we use rockets to place satellites in orbit and send missions out into the solar system? What is the structure of our solar system...of our galaxy...of the universe?

## 5. Medical Physics

Medical physics is about using physical approaches to diagnose and treat diseases. What is x-ray? How does it “see” though our body? What is MRI? Why doctors always order MRI instead of x-ray if you have a joint pain? How ultrasound scan works?

## 6. Recent Advances

Some of the most interesting questions in science are being tackled by physicists around the world. What are dark matter and dark energy? What are gravitational waves? Why is discovery of the Higgs particle important and what does it tell us? What are neutrinos and how do we observe them?

# MODULE COMPLETION DATES AND PHYSICS TOPICS COVERED

Thematic Modules	Expected completion dates of lecture videos	Physics topics Covered
1. Sound and Music	July. 9	Amplitude, velocity, wavelength, and frequency of sound waves, resonance, interference, harmonics, standing waves
2. Light and Colour	July. 16	Radiation as wave, electromagnetic wave, optical lenses and its application, human eyes, wavelength and color, color perceptions, radio waves and communication.
3. Cell Phone	July. 23	Semiconductors, diode and transistor, basic of logic gates and CPU, fabrication of integrated circuits, acceleration and accelerometer, rotation and gyroscope, light polarization and LCD screen.
4. Solar System and Beyond	July. 30	Gravity, momentum, energy, circular motion, orbits, time dilation
5. Medical Physics	Aug. 6	x-ray properties and production, x-ray diffraction and imaging, Ionizing radiation dose, radiation therapy, linear accelerators, accurate delivery of radiation, nuclear magnetic resonance, magnetic resonance imaging principle and safety, ultrasound and its production, reflection of US, B-mode US imaging.
6. Recent Advances	Aug 13	Neutrinos, Higgs particle, gravitational waves, dark energy and dark matter

# EVALUATION

## 1. (50%) Module quizzes

At the end of each thematic modules, there will be an online quiz of 15 multi-choice questions. **Quizzes will always open on Thursday and must be completed before Monday mid night (11:59 pm).** Each quiz account for 8.3% of the final mark.

Thematic Module	Module quiz due date
1. Sound and Music	July. 12, 11:59 pm
2. Light and Colour	July. 19, 11:59 pm
3. Cell Phone	July. 26, 11:59 pm
4. Solar System and Beyond	Aug. 2, 11:59 pm
5. Medical Physics	Aug. 9, 11:59 pm
6. Recent Advances	Aug. 16, 11:59 pm

## 2. (30%) Two writing projects

Each thematic module has suggested essay topics and/or a lab you can perform using materials or devices that are available in your home.

You are required to write one essay and one lab report on two of the five topics of your choice. The lab must be chosen from the first two thematic Modules (Sound and Music or Light and Colour). The essay must be chosen from the four modules (Cell Phone, Medical Physics, Solar System and Beyond, or Recent Advances).

The due dates at listed in this table:

	Thematic Modules	Module essay or lab report due dates
Lab Must pick one of the two topics	1. Sound and Music	The Lab report is <b>due on July 26,</b> 11:59 pm
	2. Light and Colour	
Essay Must pick one of the three topics	3. Cell Phone	The Essay is <b>due on Aug 16,</b> 11:59 pm
	4. Solar System and Beyond	
	5. Medical Physics	
	6. Recent Advances	

For the lab report, a write up template will be provided. The essay has to be **800-1000 words**. Both the essay and lab reports must be written using word processing software. **Hand written essays will NOT be accepted and will be given zero mark.** Essays or lab reports should be uploaded via Brightspace.

### 3. (20%) Final online quiz

During the final exam period, there will be an online quiz of multi-choice questions that covers all the content of the course.

## COPYING, PLAGIARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF CHEATING

The attention of all students is drawn to section E.12 of the Academic Regulations of the University: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicintegrity/>

Such offences will normally result in a mark of zero on the cheated work. In addition, a report will be sent to the Dean of the student's Faculty, for possible further disciplinary action.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

### Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

#### Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

#### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available

at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### **Assistance for Students:**

Academic and Career Development Services: <http://carleton.ca/sacds/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

Math Tutorial Centre: <https://carleton.ca/math/math-tutorial-centre/>

Science Student Success Centre: <https://sssc.carleton.ca/>

### **Important Information:**

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.

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