

Physics 215 - Research for Undergraduates (variable 1-3 credits)

Specific Course Information:

Instructor: Any faculty member in the Department of Physics is eligible to serve as an instructor. Exceptions require approval from the Department Chair.

Faculty Information: see <https://www.ndsu.edu/physics/people> for a list of faculty members.

Bulletin Description: In PHYS 215, the student works on a research study in physics under the supervision of an instructor. Students are encouraged to contact a faculty member in advance to discuss possible research projects and determine the number of credits (1-3). Matching the project to the student's interests, background, and capabilities is essential for a successful experience. Research can be experimental, theoretical, computational or a combination of the three.

Prerequisites: There are no formal prerequisites, but a strong aptitude for research is recommended.

Meetings: Meeting times and frequency are coordinated by the instructor. Weekly meetings are recommended, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary.

Textbook and Materials: No textbook is required. Reading assignments will be determined by the instructor.

Homework and Exams: There is no formal homework. Weekly tasks will be assigned by the instructor. The course has no exams.

Grading Policy: Each week, when possible, the instructor will assess the student's performance on a scale from 1 to 10. If a research segment spans multiple weeks, grading will be adjusted accordingly. The final grade is based on: 75%: Performance on weekly assignments and 25%: Final paper summarizing research results. The recommended grading scale is 90%-100%: A, 80%-89%: B, 70%-79%: C, 60%-69%: D, 0%-59%: F.

Final Paper: The final paper should summarize the research results, including an introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusions. It should aim to meet the standards of a scientific publication.

General Course Information:

- Any students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the [Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources](#) as soon as possible.
- The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](#) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the [Office of the Provost](#). Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at [Standards for Academic Honesty & Integrity at NDSU: Student Resources](#) and [Standards for Academic Honesty & Integrity at NDSU: Faculty](#)
- Your personally identifiable information and educational records as they relate to this course are subject to [FERPA](#).
- According to [NDSU Policy 331.1](#).
- Veterans and student service members with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible and are encouraged to provide Activation Orders.