Physics 491: Junior Seminar
Spring 2016

The purpose of this class is to develop skills for communicating scientific knowledge. You will practice reading, questioning, and discussing scientific articles. You will assist the seniors in giving their presentations of their senior projects. And, you will learn about possible careers and how to make the most of your education to get into those careers.

Professor: Phone Office E-mail
Dr. Julie A. Rathbun x8661 AHON 129 julie_rathbun@redlands.edu

Class meetings: Sec 01: MF 1:00-2:20 PM, Sec 02: MF 2:30-3:50 PM (AHON 117)

Office Hours: MF from 10:30-11:30 am and W 10:00-11:00 am. You can also make an appointment or just stop by my office. I'll be glad to talk to you whenever I'm able. My schedule is available on my web site.

Goals:
1. To critically read scientific literature and engage in scientific discourse.
2. To supply constructive criticism when evaluating the work of peers.
3. To work productively in a group setting.
4. To plan your senior project.

Text: The Craft of Scientific Writing (3rd edition) by Michael Alley

Course Policies: Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated. I am under no obligation to read any assignments turned in late, so they will not be part of your evaluation. If you have a pressing reason to extend a due date, you must request an extension well in advance of the original due date. I reserve the right to schedule pop quizzes if students are failing to attend meetings or come to meetings prepared.

Writing: All of the writing assignments must be typed. The draft and final versions of the senior thesis must be submitted by email. MS Word is the preferred form. You must check with the instructor if you want to use something else. Plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated and will result in failure of the course.

Presentations: There will be TWO senior symposiums this year. They will be on consecutive Thursdays, March 17th and 24th, beginning at 4 pm. Here, the seniors will give presentations of their work to the department. Dinner will be served after the first set of presentations. You are required to attend and participate in both symposiums.

Grading: You will not receive a numeric grade for this class. Instead, you will receive a narrative evaluation that comments on your participation and preparation for class discussions, your helpfulness with seniors on their final projects, and assignments that you turn in. You will be required to keep a portfolio of all the work you complete in class and turn it in, along with a self-evaluation of your work by Tuesday, April 19th.