

# PHY110C – Science of the Times – Fall 2016

**Unique Number:** 56040

**Classroom / Time:** GEA 114 M 10:00-11:00pm

**Instructor:** Prof. Can Kilic ([kilic@physics.utexas.edu](mailto:kilic@physics.utexas.edu))

**Office Hours:** F 4-5 or by appointment, location RLM 9.220a

**Goals of the course:** This class has two main goals. The first is to give you a chance to learn about topics of active research in physics. The second is to build up your critical thinking and discussion skills. To achieve these goals, you will be asked to read articles on research topics written at a level that is accessible to you, understand them and discuss them in class. The articles will be chosen from the “Focus” website of the American Physical Society (<http://physics.aps.org>). Each week I will assign an article from this website for you to read and think about for the next class. Suggestions for articles that you find interesting - from this website or another source at a comparable level - are not only welcome but encouraged. Then in class I will ask you to discuss the article, to demonstrate your level of understanding and to come up with additional questions to ask. When reading the article, you should pay attention to the content (What was the goal of the authors? Did they succeed? Why was this an interesting study to perform? What was the scientific merit?) as well as the style (Did the authors present the material clearly and at an appropriate level?).

**Grading:** This class is pass/fail. You are expected to attend class, and provide me with a documented excuse in advance when you cannot do so. Too many unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. At the end of the semester you will also be given a quiz where you need to demonstrate that you understood the basic aspects of the topics we studied during the course of the semester.

**Assignments:** A few times during the semester I will ask you to write and hand in short essays on selected topics connected to what we discussed in class.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>. Students who need special accommodation must notify the instructor no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> day of class.

**Accommodations for religious holidays:** If you will miss class because of a religious holiday, you must notify the instructor of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holiday and no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> day of class. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holiday, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.