Instructor:
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Office hrs: by appointment

Overview:
The goals of the class are
- to provide the student with the basic information needed to understand the main concepts of the seminars held in the Physics Department and
- to help students build communication skills for delivering scientific presentations.
To reach these goals the students will be required to perform bibliographical search and select research papers related to the topics of the seminars. Students will be trained how to use software for scientific topics/papers searching. Conceptual mapping will serve as a tool to stimulate critical thinking on the presentation skills. Training in Lab Safety and Responsible Conduct in Research are also a part of this class.

Textbook:
There is no specific textbook for this class. Students are responsible for the bibliographical search and efficient use of the CMU library resources. In all cases proper citations are required.

Prerequisite:
Enrolled in the MS in Physics program or permission of the instructor.

Learning objectives:
After completed this course students are expected to be able to:
- perform bibliographical search and compile bibliographies;
- discuss general topics in contemporary physics;
- identify the strength and weakness of a presentation;
- deliver a scientific presentation.

Format of the class and other information
The class will meet every week for discussion and preparation. Seminars held in the Physics Department are part of the course and attendance is required. Students need to read at least one paper and compile a bibliography before the seminar. The concept map of the presentation given by the Seminar speaker will be discussed in the class after the particular seminar has taken place. The work is due the Fri after the seminar.

Grading:
75% Bibliography and concept mapping (4 out of 5 seminars).
25% Final 20-minute presentation on a specific topic assigned by the instructor.
Obligatory Lab Safety Training:

http://www.cmich.edu/about/leadership/finance_admin_services/risk/environment_health_safety/lonlinetraining/Pages/default.aspx

and Responsible Behavior in Research Training:

https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp

CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor as early as possible.