PHIL 420. Philosophy of Language. 3 credits.
An examination of the central issues in contemporary (mainly 20th century) philosophy of language. Potential topics to be covered include meaning, reference, the nature of language and the nature of truth. Potential philosophers to be examined include Mill, Frege, Russell, Kripke, Lewis and Grice. Prerequisite: PHIL 250 and one other course in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 430. Analytic Philosophy. 3 credits.
An examination of the central issues in contemporary (mainly 20th century) philosophy of language. Potential topics to be covered include meaning, reference, the nature of language and the nature of truth. Potential philosophers to be examined include Mill, Frege, Russell, Kripke, Lewis and Grice. Prerequisite: PHIL 101, PHIL 250 or approval of the instructor.

PHIL 440. Advanced Moral Philosophy. 3 credits.
Class will closely examine recent or historical work in (largely normative) moral philosophy, including at least two of the following: teleology (e.g., virtue theory), deontology, etc. (e.g., Kantianism) and consequentialism (e.g., utilitarianism). Prerequisite: PHIL 101, PHIL 250 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 450. Topics in Classical Philosophy. 3 credits.
An advanced study of major issues in or the writings of one or more thinkers in ancient Greece through the Western medieval period. May be repeated for credit with change of topics. Prerequisite: PHIL 340 or permission of instructor.

PHIL 455. Topics in Modern Philosophy. 3 credits.
An advanced study of some of the major issues in or the writings of one or more 17th-, 18th- or 19th-century philosophers. Prerequisite: PHIL 101, PHIL 341, PHIL 375 or permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

PHIL 460. Kant. 3 credits.
An examination of the theory of knowledge and the critique of traditional metaphysics set forth in Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, and of the ethical theory and the moral metaphysics defended in his Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals and Critique of Practical Reason. The course may also more briefly explore some related topics, such as Kant's views on aesthetics and teleology, or the key ideas of important post-Kantian philosophers like Fichte, Schelling or Hegel. Prerequisite: PHIL 341, PHIL/REL 375 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 468. Phenomenology. 3 credits.
A study of phenomenological investigation into the fundamental structures and conditions of conscious experience--meaning-laden, first person experience of objects, of events, of one's self, of other persons, of one's world, and so forth. The course will devote special attention to the work of Husserl and of Heidegger. Additional authors may be studied, such as Santre, Merleau-Ponty or Levinas. Prerequisites: PHIL 341, PHIL 344 or PHIL 466 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 470. Topics in Contemporary Continental Philosophy. 3 credits.
Intensive study of one or two major thinkers or themes in 20th century European philosophy. Possible topics include figures such as Heidegger, Habermas, Foucault or Derrida, or themes such as phenomenology, critical theory, post-structuralism or the critique of Enlightenment ideals. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: PHIL 341, PHIL/REL 375 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 475. Philosophy Seminar. 3 credits.
Seminar topics may be drawn from any area or period of philosophy chosen by the instructor. The course is designed primarily for seniors majoring in Philosophy, but any suitably prepared student may take this course with the permission of the instructor. Prerequisite: Senior philosophy major or permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 490. Special Studies in Philosophy. 3 credits.
Designed to give capable students an opportunity to complete independent study in philosophy under faculty supervision.

PHIL 495. Philosophy Course Assistantship. 1-6 credits.
Students participate as course assistants in philosophy. Assistantships provide students with a sense of what it is like to teach a philosophy course by allowing them to work closely with faculty members through different phases of course preparation, presentation and evaluation. Assistantships may also provide opportunities for student assistants to lead discussion and to help their peers review the material outside of the classroom. Prerequisites: May be repeated once if assisting a different course, with six maximum total credit hours for both courses combined. Only three credit hours can apply to the major or minor.

PHIL 499. Honors. 6 credits.
Year course.

Physics

Department of Physics and Astronomy

PHYS 105. Foundations of Physics. 1 credit.
An introduction to the study of physics and the physics department. Presentations are given by faculty and students to acquaint the students with current research opportunities in the department and the application of physics to broad spectrum of topics.

*PHYS 140. College Physics I. 3 credits.
The first semester of a non-calculus sequence in general physics. Topics include principles of mechanics, thermal properties of matter, wave motion and sound. A working knowledge of algebra and trigonometry is required.

PHYS 150. College Physics II. 3 credits.
The second semester of a non calculus sequence in general physics. Topics include electric charges, circuits, magnetism, optics, atomic and nuclear physics. Prerequisite: PHYS 140 with a grade of “C-” or higher.

PHYS 140L*-150L. General Physics Laboratories. 1 credit each semester. These laboratory courses are designed to complement and supplement the PHYS 140-150 lecture courses. Prerequisite or corequisite for PHYS 140L: PHYS 140 or PHYS 240. Prerequisite for PHYS 150L: PHYS 140 and either PHYS 140 or PHYS 240. Prerequisite or corequisite for PHYS 150L: PHYS 150 or PHYS 250.

PHYS 215. Energy and the Environment. 3 credits.
Energy use, sources and trends; fossil fuels, heat-work conversions, thermodynamic restrictions and electric power production; nuclear fission reactors and fusion energy, solar energy and technologies; alternative energy sources; energy storage; energy conservation; issues of waste and safety. Environmental, social and economic aspects will be discussed. Not open to ISAT majors scheduled to take ISAT 212 as part of their degree requirements. Prerequisite: One college course in science and one in mathematics.

*PHYS 240. University Physics I. 3 credits.
Kinematics, dynamics, energy and momentum conservation, oscillatory motion, fluid mechanics and waves. Corequisite: MATH 223 or MATH 236.

PHYS 246. Data Acquisition and Analysis Techniques in Physics I. 1 credit.
This laboratory supplements PHYS 240 by establishing the experimental basis of physics. Topics include conception, design and performance of experiments in physics emphasizing data acquisition, analysis of experimental data, and the handling of experimental uncertainties. Prerequisite: PHYS 240.

PHYS 247. Data Acquisition and Analysis Techniques in Physics II. 1 credit.
This laboratory completes the introductory physics lab sequence and is designed to supplement the PHYS 240 and PHYS 250 lecture courses. Topics include conception, design and performance of sophisticated experiments in physics, computer simulation of physical processes, analysis of experimental data, including uncertainty estimation, and error propagation. Prerequisites: PHYS 250 and PHYS 246.

PHYS 250. University Physics II. 3 credits.
Electric forces, fields and potentials; capacitance, dielectrics, resistance and DC circuits; magnetic fields, induced electric fields, inductance and AC circuits; geometrical optics, interference, diffraction and polarization. Prerequisite: PHYS 240 with a grade of “C-” or higher. Corequisite: MATH 236.

Rotational kinematics and rotational dynamics; static equilibrium and elasticity; universal gravitation and orbital mechanics; temperature, heat, heat engines, entropy and kinetic theory; Gauss' law, electric potential and capacitance; magnetic fields, induced electric fields and inductance; displacement current and electromagnetic waves; and the special theory of relativity. Prerequisite: “C” or better in PHYS 250 or PHYS 150. Corequisites: MATH 237 and PHYS 247 or PHYS 150L.

PHYS/MATH 265. Introduction to Fluid Mechanics. 4 credits.
Introduces the student to the application of vector calculus to the description of fluids. The Euler equation, viscosity and the Navier-Stokes equation will be covered. Prerequisites: MATH 237 and PHYS 280.
PHYS 270. Modern Physics. 4 credits.
A course in modern physics, consisting of a discussion of the experimental basis for and fundamental principles of quantum physics, with applications to atomic structure and nuclear physics. Prerequisite: PHYS 260 or permission of instructor.

PHYS/CHM/MATS 275. An Introduction to Materials Science. 3 credits.
An introduction to materials science with ties to physics on the atomic level of materials. Topics will include crystal structure, extended and point defects and mechanical, electrical, thermal and magnetic properties of metals, ceramics, electronic materials, composites and organic materials. Prerequisite: CHM 131, PHYS 150 or PHYS 250, ISAT 212 or permission of the instructor.

PHYS 295. Laboratory Apparatus Design and Construction. 1 credit.
An introduction to the design and fabrication of laboratory apparatus using machine tools. Prerequisites: PHYS 250 and permission of the instructor.

PHYS 297. Topics in Physics. 1-4 credits each semester.
Topics in physics at the second year level. May be repeated for credit when course content changes. Topics selected may dictate prerequisites. Students should consult instructor prior to enrolling for course. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

PHYS 326. Biophysics. 3 credits.
Physical models are used to explain biological systems. Topics from biology include cell division, replication, transcription, and translation of DNA, protein folding, and molecular motors. Physics topics include entropy and free energy, diffusion, and statistical mechanics of two state systems. Experimental tools for biophysics are also discussed. Prerequisite: PHYS 150 or PHYS 250.

PHYS 333. Introduction to Particle Physics. 3 credits.
This is an introduction to current themes and ideas which confront the fundamental nature of matter and interactions. The most widely accepted theory, the Standard Model, will be explored. Possible extension, beyond the Standard Model physics, will be discussed. Basic properties such as charge, mass, and lepton number will be examined within these frameworks. Experiments that illuminate the basic nature of matter and ideas such as symmetry and quantum physics will be reviewed and assessed. Prerequisite: PHYS 270.

PHYS/MATS 337. Solid State Physics. 3 credits.
A study of the forces between atoms, crystal structure, lattice vibrations and thermal properties of solids, free electron theory of metals, band theory of solids, semiconductors and dielectrics. Prerequisite: PHYS 270 or permission of instructor.

PHYS 338. Nuclear Physics. 3 credits.
An introduction to the study of the atomic nucleus. Topics covered include static nuclear properties and movements, the force between nucleons, the deuteron, nucleon scattering, isospin, nuclear structure, radioactivity, decay kinematics and selection rules, fission, and fusion. Prerequisite: PHYS 270.

PHYS 339. Introductory Nuclear Science. 4 credits.
An introduction to nuclear science that will provide a solid foundation for experimental work in applied nuclear physics. Detection of ionizing radiation, as it applies to nuclear physics, will be additionally covered in the laboratory-component of the course. Topics include concepts of radioactive decays, radiation transport and interaction with matter, basics of radiation detection devices, dosimetry, radiation therapy, X-ray production, and fission nuclear reactors. Prerequisite: PHYS 270 or permission of instructor.

PHYS 340. Mechanics. 3 credits.
Application of fundamental laws of mechanics to particles and rigid bodies. Topics include statics, dynamics, central forces, oscillatory motion and generalized coordinates. Prerequisites: PHYS 260 and MATH 238.

PHYS/MATH 341. Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos. 3 credits.
Introductory study of nonlinear dynamics and chaos intended primarily for upper-level undergraduates in science or mathematics. Topics include stability, bifurcations, phase portraits, strange attractors, fractals and selected applications of nonlinear dynamics in pure and applied science. Computers may be utilized for simulations and graphics. Prerequisites: MATH 238 and MATH 248.

PHYS 342. Mechanics II. 3 credits.
A continuation of PHYS 340 including Lagrangian dynamics, rigid body motion and the theory of small oscillations. Prerequisite: PHYS 340.

PHYS 344. Advanced Physics Laboratory I. 1 credit.
The first course in a three-course laboratory sequence. A set of advanced laboratory experiences in which students are introduced to experimentation in several areas of physics while gaining experience in experiment design, data analysis, formal report writing and presentations. Prerequisite: PHYS 247.

PHYS 345. Advanced Physics Laboratory II. 1 credit.
This is the second course in a three-course laboratory sequence. A set of advanced laboratory experiences in which students are introduced to experimentation in several areas of physics while gaining experience in experiment design, data analysis, formal report writing and presentations. Prerequisite: PHYS 344.

PHYS 348. Advanced Physics Laboratory III. 1 credit.
This is the third course in a three-course laboratory sequence. A set of advanced laboratory experiences in which students are introduced to experimentation in several areas of physics while gaining experience in experiment design, data analysis, formal report writing and presentations. Prerequisite: PHYS 345.

PHYS 350. Electricity and Magnetism. 3 credits.
A study of the electrostatic field, the magnetic field, direct and alternating currents and electromagnetic waves. Prerequisites: PHYS 260 and MATH 238.

PHYS 360. Analog Electronics (2, 4). 4 credits.
DC and AC circuits, spectral and pulse circuit response, semiconductor physics and simple amplifier and oscillator circuits. Prerequisite: PHYS 250 or permission of the instructor.

PHYS/MATH 365. Computational Fluid Mechanics. 3 credits.
Development and application of mathematical models and computer simulations to investigate problems in solid mechanics, with emphasis on numerical solution of associated boundary value problems. Prerequisites: MATH/PHYS 266, MATH 238 and MATH 248, or permission of the instructor.

PHYS 371. Introductory Digital Electronics (2, 4). 2 credits.
Transistors, integrated circuits, logic families, gates, latches, decoders, multiplexers, multivibrators, counters and displays. Prerequisite: A grade of "C" in PHYS 150 or PHYS 250 or permission of the instructor.

PHYS 372. Microcontrollers and Their Applications (2, 4). 2 credits.
Microcontrollers, their instructions, architecture and applications. Prerequisite: PHYS 371 or permission of the instructor.

PHYS 373. Interfacing Microcomputers (2, 4). 2 credits.
A study of the personal computer and its input/output bus, input/output functions, commercially available devices, proto-typing circuit boards and programs for device control. Prerequisite: PHYS 371.

PHYS 380. Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics. 3 credits.
A treatment of the thermal properties of matter from both macroscopic and microscopic viewpoints. Topics include the laws of thermodynamics, heat, work, internal energy, entropy, elementary statistical concepts, ensembles, classical and quantum statistics and kinetic theory. Approximately equal attention will be given to thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. Prerequisites: PHYS 270.

PHYS/MATS 381. Materials Characterization (Lecture/Lab course). 3 credits.
A review of the common analytical techniques used in materials science related industries today, including the evaluation of electrical, optical, structural and mechanical properties. Typical techniques may include Hall Effect, scanning probe microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, ellipsometry and x-ray diffraction. Prerequisite: PHYS/MATS 275, ISAT/MATS 431 or GEOL/MATS 295.

PHYS 386. Robots: Structure and Theory. 3 credits.
An introduction to the study of autonomous robotic platforms. Topics include robot structure, propulsion systems, robot kinematics, sensors used in robotics, and sensor integration. The course combines lectures with laboratory activities in which students will get hands-on experience in designing, building, programming, and testing autonomous robotic platforms. Prerequisite: completion of the basic preparation courses required for the robotics minor or permission of the instructor.

PHYS 390. Computer Applications in Physics. 3 credits.
Applications of automatic computation in the study of various physical systems. Problems are taken from mechanics of particles and continua, electromagnetism, optics, quantum physics, thermodynamics and transport physics. Prerequisites: MATH/CS 248; PHYS 240, PHYS 250 and six additional credit hours in major courses in physics, excluding PHYS 380, PHYS 371 and PHYS 372.

PHYS 391-392. Seminar. 1 credit per year.
Participation in the department seminar program. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and permission of the instructor.
POS 200. Global Politics. 3 credits.
A study of the political, social and economic issues and structures existing within and between states in the contemporary global community. Students are introduced to alternative approaches to analyzing these issues in diverse cultures and political settings.

POSC 201. Introduction to Western Political Theory. 3 credits.
A general survey of Western political theory from Plato to Marx, order and freedom.

POSC 225. U.S. Government. 4 credits
An examination of institutions, processes and intellectual concepts, which structure American political activity. The interaction of the political system with the changing American society and America's changing role in world affairs are also treated. The course provides an introduction to quantitative methodology.

POSC 230. International Relations. 3 credits
A survey of the field of international relations including consideration of the elements of national power, foreign policy, diplomacy, propaganda, foreign aid, war, international law and international organization.

POS 240. Comparative Politics. 3 credits.
A comparative study of selected political systems. Emphasis is on the structure of government, the political process and the conditions which either promote or constrain political change and stability.

POS 295. Research Methods. 4 credits.
Students learn how to conduct original research from theory formulation through data collection and hypothesis testing. Special emphasis on research and computer literacy. Prerequisite: PHYS 220.

POS 300. Politics and Film. 3 credits.
This course examines the relationship between politics and film, broadly construed. The ability of film to inform and promote agendas on key political issues, and the way in which films reflect the world of ideas and political culture in which they are created will be explored in substantive areas that may include: social and political change, human rights and justice, the portrayal of political processes and institutions, and foreign policy.

POS 301W. The Washington Semester Experience. 3 credits.
A study of the manner in which the policy making process is conducted on the federal level. The function of political and governmental institutions in establishing public policy is examined through readings and observation. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Washington Semester program.

POS 302. State and Local Government. 3 credits.
A study of state and local government in the United States with particular focus on Virginia. Emphasis is placed on an understanding of the framework, functions and problems of state and local governments.

POS 310. Political Theory: Ancient to Early Modern. 3 credits.
A study of political theory from Plato and Aristotle through Machiavelli with analysis of such political concepts as the nature of the state, political obligation, natural law and Utopian societies.

POS 315. Political Theory: Early Modern to the 19th Century. 3 credits.
A study of political theory from Hobbes and Locke to Hegel, Green and other 19th-century thinkers. The course will examine such ideas as freedom, political obligation, justice, progress, ethics, and politics and the relationship between the individual and the human polity.

POS 316. Contemporary Political Theory. 3 credits.
An examination of political thinkers and their ideas from the end of the 19th century to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the writings of Hannah Arendt, Jurgen Habermas, John Rawls and other contemporary thinkers who continue to engage in the pursuit of political inquiry.

POS 321. Political Theory and Ideology. 3 credits.
A study of the relationship between normative political theory and ideology, emphasizing the philosophic foundations of modern political thought and its relationship to the emergence of various ideological positions in the 19th and 20th centuries. Includes a study of liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, nationalism, fascism, feminism, environmentalism and others.

POS 325. Constitutional Law. 3 credits.
A study of the legal aspects of the American democratic system. The development of the Constitution will be explored and case studies used to portray important events and changes.

POS 328. Civil Rights. 3 credits.
An examination of the judicial interpretation of civil rights in America with emphasis on freedom of speech, due process of law and equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

POS 330. American Political Thought. 3 credits.
A study of the development and significance of political ideas that have influenced American society and government.

POS/JUST 331. Human Rights in Theory and Practice. 3 credits.
This course will explore the nature and value of human rights by investigating some major debates over their status and meaning and by examining some of the ways people have tried to secure human rights in practice. Prerequisites: JUST 200 and INTA majors only. For JUST majors: JUST 200.

POS 335. Comparative Politics for Teachers. 3 credits.
This course examines the core themes, concepts and debates in the subfield of comparative politics and how they apply to politics in selected countries around the world. The course emphasizes those themes and cases of greatest use to students pursuing careers in education and explores approaches to teaching this content in a variety of classroom settings.

POS 337. Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union. 3 credits.
This course will examine the core themes, concepts and debates in the subfield of comparative politics and how they apply to politics in selected countries around the world. The course emphasizes those themes and cases of greatest use to students pursuing careers in education and explores approaches to teaching this content in a variety of classroom settings.

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