



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY  
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** PHYS 597 Senior Physics Laboratory                      Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Alexander Lvovsky | SB 319 | (403) 220-4124 | lvov@ucalgary.ca | Office Hours: By appointment

**Lecture Section:** LEC 01 | TR 09:30-10:45 | SA 123

**Course Website:** <http://ucalgary.ca/~lvov/597>

**Departmental Office:** SB 605, 403-220-5385, [phasugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phasugrd@ucalgary.ca)

2. **Prerequisites:** Physics 325 and 497. (Please see Calendar Description for more information)
3. **Grading:** The University policy on grading and related matters is described sections [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Lab proposals (3): 15%  
Lab notes and performance: 10%  
Lab reports (3): 45%  
Oral interviews: 10%  
Oral presentation and discussion: 20%

Percentage to letter grade conversion scale:

|         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |
|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
| >= 95 % | A + | >= 80 % | B + | >= 65 % | C + | >= 50 % | D + |
| >= 90 % | A   | >= 75 % | B   | >= 60 % | C   | >= 45 % | D   |
| >= 85 % | A - | >= 70 % | B - | >= 55 % | C - | < 45 %  | F   |

4. **Missed Components of Term Work:** The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are found in the Faculty of Science area of the Calendar in [Section 3.6](#). It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with these regulations. See also [Section E.6](#) of the University Calendar.

5. **Scheduled out-of-class activities:** None.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME-ACTIVITY.** If you have a clash with this out-of-class-time-activity, please inform your instructor as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements may be made for you.

6. **Course Materials:** Lecture notes as well as information related to the labs will be distributed by electronic means.
7. **Examination Policy:** This course does not include any mid-term or final exams. Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

8. **Approved Mandatory and Optional Course Supplemental Fees:** None
9. **Writing across the curriculum statement:** In this course, the quality of the student's writing in laboratory reports will be a factor in the evaluation of those reports. See also [Section E.2](#) of the University Calendar.
10. **Human studies statement:** Students in the course will not be expected to participate as subjects or researchers. See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.
11. **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:**
- (a) **Misconduct:** Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under [Section K](#). Student Misconduct to inform yourself of definitions, processes and penalties.
- (b) **Assembly Points:** In case of emergency during class time, be sure to FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF with the information on [assembly points](#).
- (c) **Student Accommodations:** Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Associate Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Dr. David Feder, by email ([dfeder@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dfeder@ucalgary.ca)) or by phone (403.220.3638).
- (d) **Safewalk:** Campus Security will escort individuals day or night (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>). Call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.
- (e) **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.
- (f) **Student Union Information:** [VP Academic](#) Phone: 220-3911 Email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).  
SU Faculty Rep: Phone: 220-3913 Email: [science1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:science1@su.ucalgary.ca), [science2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:science2@su.ucalgary.ca) and [science3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:science3@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Student Ombuds Office: 403 220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca); <http://ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- (g) **Internet and Electronic Device Information:** You can assume that in all classes that you attend, your cell phone should be turned off unless instructed otherwise. Also, communication with other individuals, via laptop computers, Blackberries or other devices connectable to the Internet is not allowed in class time unless specifically permitted by the instructor. If you violate this policy you may be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct.
- (h) **U.S.R.I.:** At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

## 12. OTHER COURSE RELATED INFORMATION:

### (a) Course Description

Selected advanced experiments. Where possible, students may choose those experiments most suited to their interests. Development of technical and computer-based skills, technical writing and presentation skills.

### (b) Course Learning Outcomes

- Improve physics knowledge
- Learn the work of experimental physicist
  - improving technical skills
  - improving computer data processing skills
  - maintaining lab records
- “Metascience”
  - reading a research article
  - writing proposals (and getting them funded)
  - writing articles (and getting them published)
  - reporting your findings at a conference
- Becoming an independent scientist
  - independent thinking
  - literature study
  - problem solving
  - problem finding

### (c) Course Learning Incomes

Students taking PHYS 597 are expected to have prior knowledge in

- General physics and mathematics within the scope of standard college physics course
- Basic methods and tools of experimental physics
- Data processing and presentation (basic statistical methods, error analysis, scientific graphics software)
- Scientific writing
- Making public presentations with slides

### (d) Syllabus

The lecture will focus on the communication of research and research results:

- writing research proposals
- reading and writing scientific papers
- reading and writing referee reports
- writing fellowship and grant applications
- writing reference letters
- oral presentations

### (e) Lab Schedule

Available on the course website <http://ucalgary.ca/~lvov/597>

