



Polaris 2022-23 Class Syllabus

Physics 2050.01

Wed: 5:20-6:15, Scott Lab room N048 and N050

Instructor: Alison Duck(.18), Dennis Calderon-Madera(.1)
Office Building: TBD
Office Hours: By appointment
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Class Description

The Polaris Mentorship Class is a year-long course for students in their first two years in OSU physics and astronomy. The goal of the program is threefold: firstly, students will come to understand the status of diversity and inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and the benefits and challenges that people from various backgrounds bring to STEM as students. Secondly, students will understand how to successfully maintain a mentor-mentee relationship, including developing goals, communicating effectively, and harnessing mentorship as a step to research or academic success. Finally, students will be given time with mentors during each class period to work effectively on achieving the goals they have established. Some class days will be devoted to career development, skill building, and planning. As part of the course, students will be paired with mentors who are upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. The details of the program are as follows:

- Mentors and mentees will meet in class weekly.
- In the fall, the class will begin with a presentation by a member of the Polaris leadership board. The remainder of the time will be divided between small group discussion and individual mentor-mentee meetings (with the time division decided by the discussion leader for the day).
- In the spring, the course will dedicate more time to mentor/mentee interactions through small research projects.

Mentors will attend a training session before the year begins; much of their training will occur through the class itself. We intend to ask mentors to attend class every week, but we recognize it may not be possible for some to register for the course officially. Polaris leadership will monitor the mentor-mentee relationships throughout the year and offer support and mediation. The goal of OSU Polaris is to increase retention of undergraduates in STEM at OSU. As such, and because space in the class is limited, we will consider applications for the class on the basis of interest in our mission, mutually-compatible mentor-mentee pairing, mentor availability, and diversity.

Details

- Time and place for FALL 2022: **Scott Lab N048 and N050; Wednesdays 5:20-6:15 PM**
- Assignments: The fall semester will consist of small weekly assignments to be completed before the start of class. Half way through the semester, students will complete a small group presentation. The spring semester will consist of a few longer projects, including a writing a personal statement, talking with a professor, and completing a small research project with your mentor. Details for each will be provided at a later date.
- Mentor/Mentee Meeting: Mentors and mentees will be expected to meet during the scheduled class time. If one party is unable to attend class, they must notify the instructor before hand and schedule a time to meet outside of class.
- This is a 1 credit hour course which will be both lecture, small group work, and mentoring time.
- The grading scheme for the class will be **pass/fail**. To pass, the student are expected to attend **all but one class period** (excused absences not counted toward this total) and participate in **at least one out-of-class career-building activity** in addition to completing all class assignments.
- All course materials will be provided electronically on Carmen. Each week/topic will be broken down into modules with the assignments, presentation.
- The mentorship program is intended to be a *two-semester* commitment. In order to receive credit you must complete both semesters (for a total of 2 credit hours).

Out-of-Class Activities

Career-Building Activities

- Polaris will organize a list of talks or virtual activities at OSU. When relevant, Polaris may also host a primer on the topic just before the talk.

- Polaris will organize groups to virtually attend the undergraduate research forums.

Social Activities

- Polaris will host social gatherings throughout the year. Details will be provided at least two weeks in advance and during class.
- Mentors and mentees are encouraged to meet outside of the class time.

Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Fall 2022

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
8/24 ...	Kickoff Party/Expectations
8/31 ...	Scavenger hunt for Campus resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Goals Worksheet
9/7 ...	Speed Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Read Mentor Bios and Rank Mentors
9/14 ...	Mentor pairing and Contracts + Intro to Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Chat with a friend.
9/21 ...	Imposter Syndrome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Do imposter test
9/28 ...	Demographics of STEM around the World and How to Talk about Diversity and Inclusion in STEM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Read terms and definitions packet.
10/5 ...	Harvard Computers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Watch Hidden Figures
10/12 ...	What a Scientist Looks Like <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Find a Scientist in Media
10/19 ...	How to Give a Talk + Starting Presentation (1/2 Work Day) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Watch a well structured presentation
10/26 ...	Oral Presentation (Work Day) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Read through materials on your topic. BlackInAstro Youtube Presentations
11/2 ...	Presentations
11/9 ...	Presentations
11/16 ...	Mentors Project Training - Mentees Intro to Summer Research Personal Statement Workshop
11/23 ...	<i>Thanksgiving Break: No Class</i>
11/30 ...	Personal and CV Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HW: Research the OSU Physics/Astronomy professors and find one whose work you are interested in OR an REU program you want to apply to. Submit to Carmen
12/7 ...	Planetarium + Mentees Pairs Talk about Project (with Food)

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so we recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct. If we suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, we are obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact us.

Disabilities Services

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-4307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu.

Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.