Contemporary Physics/Astronomy
Astronomy and Physics 1900, Spring 2020

Lam Hui


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Office hours. Monday 3:30 - 4:30 pm, or by appointment.

Class Meeting Time/Place. Friday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in NWC 602.

Prerequisites. 1000 level course in Physics or Astronomy

Requirements. Weekly problem sets. Lecture attendance is mandatory (no more than 2 absences).

Topics covered. Relativity. Quantum mechanics. Contemporary research. The goal is to introduce modern physics – space and time, quantum entanglement – without advance mathematics, but in a way that is substantial and leads to a firm grasp of the most fundamental and surprising ideas.

Texts. The main texts are

- It’s About Time – Understanding Einstein’s Relativity, David Mermin, Princeton University Press
- Quantum Mechanics – the Theoretical Minimum, Leonard Susskind and Art Friedman, Basic Books

Both are available at Book Culture on W. 112th Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam). The website is http://www.bookculture.com. Other recommended references include:

- The Theoretical Minimum – What You Need to Know to Start Doing Physics, Leonard Susskind and George Hrabovsky, Basic Books