

HENDRIX

PROPOSED COURSE ADDITION OR REVISION

Deadline for Area approval: 21 October 2011

Proposer: Ann Wright

Department/Program: Physics

Check appropriate boxes:

☒ New permanent course

☐ Replaces existing course:

☐ Change to existing course:

Date: September 28, 2011

Area: NS

☐ New temporary course

☐ Make temporary course permanent

☐ Eliminate a course

Proposal -- one sentence summary:

Add a 100-level physics topics course.

Proposed subject code(s) (indicate both if cross-listing): PHYS

Proposed course # or level: 100

Proposed course title: Introductory Topics in Physics

Proposed course catalog copy:

This course is designed to introduce students to the tools of physics. The instructor will select a topic which allows students to analyze phenomena, model their behavior, and solve problems. Specific content may vary by topic, but all sections repeat core concepts. Only one section may be counted for course credit.

Example topics: Alternative Energy, Physics in Movies and Television, and the Physics of Superheroes.

Prerequisites/co-requisites and/or recommended prior courses, as listed in catalog copy:

none

How will the proposed revision affect any catalog lists of options for majors or minors?

n/a

Rationale for course within departmental and collegiate context and based on assessment results:

The physics department hopes to be able to offer topics courses that are accessible to all Hendrix students.

A 100-level topics course will draw more students than the 400-level Topics course currently in the catalog.

Proposed general education code(s) (check all that apply):

☐ EA ☐ HP ☐ LS ☒ NS ☐ NS-L ☐ SB ☐ VA ☐ QS ☐ W1 ☐ FL [Curriculum Committee]

☐ CW [CW Committee]

☐ W2 [Writing Across the Curriculum Committee]

Proposed Odyssey code(s) (check all that apply):

☐ AC ☐ GA ☐ PL ☐ SW ☐ UR ☐ SP [CEL Committee/Curriculum Committee]

For each of the checked general education or Odyssey codes, describe how the course fulfills the published criteria (see the Catalog, pages 18-23 or the Odyssey Program Guide, pages 10-16):

NS justification : This course will be a fun introduction to the scientific method as applied to a popular topic. We will explore the history or development of the topic, as well as the physics necessary to understand the topic. Discussion of the topic will include critical analysis of the past, present, and future state of the topic. Emphasis will be on the methods used to model, gather, interpret, and evaluate data critically and the placement of this information into a larger context as needed by today's world citizens.

Justification for cross-listing:

How often will the course be offered? occasionally, as requested by students or faculty or if space in the department course schedule allows. This course could also be a good Maymester course.

Who will teach the course? any physics faculty or physics adjunct

Equipment, supply, and bibliographic requirements (items and cost): standard physics demo equipment

Will the above items be covered by a present budget? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Approval Chain (type name and date of approval)

Department chair: Ann Wright October 6, 2011

Area chair: Carl Burch (October 11, 2011)