

# **Lyon College Batesville Campus: Standard Course Policies**

*Effective date: August 1, 2026*

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These policies apply to all courses offered at Lyon College's Batesville campus. Details related to a specific course can be found in the rest of the course's syllabus.

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## ***Honor Code***

All graded work in this class is to be pledged in accordance with the Lyon College Honor Code. The use of a phone for any reason during the course of an exam is considered an Honor Code violation.

## ***Class Attendance Policy***

Active participation and interaction with instructors and classmates are vital parts of learning. Therefore, no matter the style or format of a given course, Lyon College students are expected to attend, according to instructor-defined standards, all class periods for the courses in which they are enrolled. Instructors must record attendance promptly in the College's Learning Management System.

Occasionally, students may be prevented from attending classes for college-sponsored events or for other unavoidable and/or uncontrollable reasons. Absences due to such reasons are excused absences. Absences for college-sponsored events are always considered excused. Instructors, on a case-by-case basis, may consider other absences excused. For excused absences, instructors cannot penalize a student's participation or graded work without first offering a reasonable make-up opportunity.

Instructors who find that a student is absent from class excessively, excused or not, and also not making good-faith efforts to keep up and meet performance standards may request that the student be involuntarily dropped from the course. Before pursuing this, the instructor must have submitted an appropriate alert via the Early Alert system at least two calendar weeks prior so that the student will have had a warning that they are in jeopardy and have time to correct the behavior and performance. Students will be given the opportunity to respond to an instructor's request to drop them. The final decision will be made by the Provost and communicated to the instructor, the student, the Registrar, and other relevant parties.

Students who are involuntarily withdrawn from a course will receive a W, WP, or WF in the course following the same rules that apply for voluntary withdrawals. Students may not be involuntarily withdrawn under this policy after the final exam period for the relevant term, sub-term, or mini-term has begun.

## ***Recording of Classes and Meetings***

To protect the intellectual property of instructors, the privacy of students and employees, and the integrity of the learning environment, students may not make audio, video, photographic, or other recordings of class sessions, laboratories, studio activities, examinations, private meetings with faculty or staff, or other instructional or academic activities without the knowledge and prior written permission of the instructor, except as required as an approved disability accommodation. Instructors may authorize recording or provide recordings of their classes on a course-by-course basis when they determine it is appropriate for instructional purposes.

Any recordings or other course materials provided or authorized (see above) by an instructor are for the personal educational use of students enrolled in the course. Students may not copy, share, post, distribute, sell, or otherwise make such recordings or materials available to others without the instructor's prior written permission.

Unauthorized recording or distribution of recordings or other instructional materials may constitute a violation of College policy, the Honor Code, copyright law, or other applicable laws and may result in disciplinary action.

## ***Academic Support***

The Morrow Academic Center (MAC) assists students who want to improve grades or academic skills by providing peer-led services including Supplemental Instruction (SI), tutoring, the Writing Center, and academic coaching as well as providing 24-hour, online tutoring for all subjects through online tutoring. A schedule of peer-led services is available at

[lyon.edu/mac](http://lyon.edu/mac) and online tutoring is accessed through courses in Canvas. Contact Emily Dyer, Director of Academic Support and Accessibility, at (870) 307-7319 or [emily.dyer@lyon.edu](mailto:emily.dyer@lyon.edu) for more information about MAC services.

### ***Technology Support***

For any technology-related support, you can contact the IT department by emailing [support@lyon.edu](mailto:support@lyon.edu) or by calling 870-307-7555. You can also navigate to [support.lyon.edu](http://support.lyon.edu) to submit a ticket request. Your course content will be accessible digitally using the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS), which uses your myLyon credentials for your student login. To access Canvas, login at [lyon.instructure.com](http://lyon.instructure.com).

*NOTE: Students taking RISE courses will use the [RISE Canvas LMS login](#).*

### ***Disabilities***

Students seeking reasonable accommodations for learning, psychological, or physical disabilities must contact Emily Dyer, Director of Academic Support and Accessibility, in the Morrow Academic Center at (870) 307-7319 or at [emily.dyer@lyon.edu](mailto:emily.dyer@lyon.edu).

### ***Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct***

Lyon College seeks to provide all members of the community with a safe and secure learning and work environment that is free of crime and/or policy violations motivated by discrimination, sexual and bias-related harassment, and other violations of rights. The College has a zero-tolerance policy against gender-based misconduct, sexual assault, and interpersonal violence toward any member or guest of the Lyon Community. The College encourages anyone experiencing or knows of someone experiencing harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct to speak to and file an official report with our Title IX Coordinator, located in the Nichols Building, office 12 near the north exit. All college employees (faculty, staff, administrators) are required to report actual or suspected incidents of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and violence to appropriate officials immediately. However, there are limited exceptions, referred to as confidential reporters (Campus Clinic Director, the Chaplain, or the Director of Mental and Behavioral Health). Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of the law. [Title IX Reporting Tool](#). [Lyon College Title IX Policy](#).

### ***Mental & Behavioral Health***

Lyon College is dedicated to ensuring each student has access to mental and behavioral health resources. The College's Mental and Behavioral Health Office is located in Edwards Commons and is partnered with White River Health's Behavioral Health Clinic. The office is committed to helping the Lyon community achieve maximum mental and behavioral wellness through both preventative and reactive care. A full-time, licensed, professional counselor provides counseling, consultations, outreach, workshops, and many more mental and behavioral services to Lyon students, faculty, and staff at no cost. The Mental and Behavioral Health Office also provides access to White River Health's services and facilities, including medication management and in-patient and out-patient care. To make an appointment, contact [counseling@lyon.edu](mailto:counseling@lyon.edu).

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The rest of a course's syllabus will include at least the following:

- A description of the course consistent with the Lyon College catalog.
- A list of student learning outcomes for the course.
- A summary of all course requirements.
- An explanation of the grading system to be used in the course.
- Any course-specific attendance policies that go beyond the College policy.
- Details about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable student collaboration on graded work.

## Tentative Syllabus for Physics 390.01: Fall 2026

**Professor: Dr. Stuart Hutton**

**Office: Derby Center: 248 Research Lab: Derby 219: General Physics lab: 148**

**Lab email: [lyonphysics@\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*.com](mailto:lyonphysics@*****.com) web: [physics.lyon.edu](http://physics.lyon.edu)**

**Phone: \*\*\*.307.7560 Email: [stuart.hutton@lyon.edu](mailto:stuart.hutton@lyon.edu)**

**During class periods and during tests:**

**cell phones are to be switched off.**

**Class Meeting Details: To be determined**

**Grading**

**As a general guide to grades, grades will be assigned as follows:**

|                             |                              |                              |                              |                             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>200-180]</b><br><b>A</b> | <b>(180-160]</b><br><b>B</b> | <b>(160-140]</b><br><b>C</b> | <b>(140-120]</b><br><b>D</b> | <b>&lt;(120</b><br><b>F</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

**The final course grade may reflect subjective course aspects such as attendance and positive class participation.**

In this course, you will have several grading opportunities. The various weight of each of these activities in your final point grade is shown below. You are required to attend each seminar session. If you miss a session, your grade will be reduced by 10 points.

**Note:** The timing is presented as is for a 2 student schedule.

This may require adjustment if class size changes.

This class will consist of several **{10}** minute timed presentations of which **{8}** minutes are devoted to presentation and  $\approx$  **{2}** minutes is devoted to question and answer sessions (**{2}** presentations for each class period). There will also be a formal presentation consisting of a total of 30 minutes and: 25 minutes will be devoted to a formal presentation based upon independent research on an approved physics topic and 5 minutes will be devoted to a question and answer session. A formal paper covering the formal presentation will be due the week of November 17. **As you can see, our time is tight so it is extremely important that you arrive on time and ready to begin. You must get your electronic presentations to me before class so that they can be ready to go at the correct time.**

**Grades will be obtained as follows:**

Each **{10}** minute presentation period provides a (final) maximum of 10 points: 8 points total for a presentation and 2 points total for active class discussion.

**Total for {10} minute presentations=(200/2) or 100 points.**

On the dates shown on the schedule, you will submit (electronically) required preliminary topics, updates or rough drafts. You will receive 2 points for each of these 9 submissions for a total **of 18 points**. The formal paper will provide you with an additional **22 points**. The 30 minute formal presentation will provide you with an additional **40 points**. A properly indexed compendium of your presentations is due the week of December 8, 2026 will provide you with 20 additional points. This is one single pdf document and will consist of the table of contents and slides from each of your presentations.

**Total maximum course points: (200/2)+18+22+40+20=200**

**Presentations will be graded for preparedness and correctness.**

**Do not try to give a presentation that you have not adequately prepared for! This means that you must normally set aside time to prepare (and practice) your presentations each week.**

Your topics for the **{10}** minute presentations will come from the areas of physics mentioned during the particular week. I will provide you with several topics within each area for your selection. Topics 8, 9 and 10 will be self-chosen, subject to approval and must come from physics areas. The topic choice for the formal presentation is subject to professor approval and must come from physics areas. As a note, the oral presentations will be graded according to the standard rubric and will also be graded according to the oral communications rubric; the oral communication rubric will not be part of your grade.

### Course Description

In this course, you will have an opportunity to gain experience with presentation of complex topics in physics. Topics will be at the level of each student's background in physics. Individually chosen topics may come from areas beyond general physics (such as modern physics), subject to approval.

### Course Objectives

As a consequence of this course, you should obtain an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of physics. In addition, you should come away from this course with an ability to discuss, among peers fundamental problems involving physical principles.

### Course Prerequisites

Students in this course must have completed or have credit for the following:

- (1) either Physics 210 or 240 (2) Physics 241
  - (3) either Physics 220 or 250 (4) Physics 251
- or permission of the professor.

Text Book: There is no required text for this course.

You have many resources on the campus: the library, your colleagues and your professor. Your prime learning resource, however, must be considered to be the classroom: **punctual** and **complete** class attendance is expected and required.

**Punctual and complete class attendance is expected. Absences will negatively impact your final grade. Use of a networked device to communicate (aside from downloading class materials) during class will be considered equivalent to an unexcused absence. Tardiness is considered to be an unexcused absence and will negatively impact your final grade. In general you do not have permission to enter the classroom after class has started. At no time during this class will you be permitted to text or access network infrastructure except when presenting. There is zero tolerance for this policy. If you violate this policy, you will be asked to leave and that day's presentation and credit will be considered to be an unexcused absence.**

### Academic Honesty

If you use reference work, **be sure to include proper references and these references must be visible during your presentation.** Your presentations must represent your unique work and thus simple copy and paste from sources is not permitted. Under the educational single use provision of copyright laws, you may at times use external material which is properly referenced in your presentation. Additionally you are expected to provide presentations that are unique; you may not simply replay presentations that you have previously presented. Practice talks in preparation for the weekly presentations is exempt from this requirement. You are, of course, permitted to ask me and your colleagues questions about presentations in their preparation. However the end result must represent your unique effort. Presentations must be unique for the particular presentation; this means you can not replay a previous presentation. For AI usage guidelines, please refer to the section below.

## **Maturity Expectations**

**Bathroom breaks:** Bathroom breaks are sometimes necessary. In seminar, however, you are expected to be in the class for the entire period unless you have an accommodation from ODS. As a result, you are required to get your bathroom needs completed before or after class.

**Texting/game playing:** Students who text/game play during class are considered to have an unexcused absence, which will automatically lower your grade. If you are texting during physics seminar, you will be asked to leave.

**Late Arrivals:** Students arriving after the lecture has started are automatically considered as having an unexcused absence except in exceptional circumstances, and your grade will automatically be lowered. You will not be permitted to do a presentation on that day. Especially in seminar, you are absolutely required to arrive on time.

**Other disruptive behavior:** Students that are disruptive during other student presentations will be asked to leave and you will not receive credit for that day even if you have already given a presentation. Disruptive behavior includes tearing paper, texting, making noise, conversations and other inappropriate behaviors.

## AI Usage Guidelines FA26

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools or automated problem-solving software presents both opportunities for learning and responsibilities regarding academic integrity. Guidelines regarding AI use as is related to academic honesty are provided later in this document. **Under no circumstances are you permitted to use AI resources on tests.**

### A warning about searches and AI

A quick heads-up about AI: I am fine with you using AI search summaries to help you figure things out. In fact, just about every search engine except perhaps Searx and Searxng automatically include AI summaries, usually at the top of your search results.

**Be careful!** If you search for a physics concept and paste that summary into your report, keep in mind that any classmate typing a similar query into the same search engine will likely get the exact same sentences. If you paste that text into your assignment, your paper will match someone else's work word-for-word. Even if you never intended to plagiarize, submitting auto-generated text as your own writing still constitutes plagiarism—and it sticks out like a sore thumb.

In short: You are welcome to use AI tools and search summaries during your personal study time, but to get credit for your work, the actual writing must come from your own head. Do not copy and paste summaries.

### Permitted Use: Post-Draft Proofreading & Editing

You are permitted to use generative AI tools to review and proofread your already written lab reports prior to submission. Think of the AI as an advanced spell checker.

Allowed: Asking the AI to flag grammar errors, typos, awkward phrasing, or run-on sentences in text you wrote.

Prohibited: Asking the AI to write the initial draft, generate explanations from scratch, or fabricate lab data.

### Your Responsibility for Physics Accuracy

Generative models edit for grammatical fluency, not scientific truth. AI tools routinely "smooth out" technical prose by accidentally altering physical laws, dropping units, or changing numerical values. You are 100% responsible for reviewing every suggested edit line-by-line. If the AI changes your physics, you are accountable for the error.

### An Experiment for FA26:

#### The one time you may use AI to assist with an initial draft

**Note: this applies ONLY to Physics 241FA26 and not to any other course at Lyon.**

Physics 241 requires 3 scientific reasoning (SR) paragraphs. In the following manner, you may (but are not required) use AI to assist in the development of your first draft:

Each SR covers 1 or more specific labs. You **must** submit your finished lab reports to AI, along with the rubric and guidelines for SR completion. You may ask ai to prepare a summary within the guidelines. You work from that summary to produce your initial paragraph. You may absolutely not cut and paste AI output and submit that as your paragraph. Your paragraph must still come from your words, but the summary may be used as a guideline. You are responsible to ensure that only terms covered up until that time in the course and lab are used. AI in particular will use terms and concepts that have not been covered in class in this paragraph and, back to the sore thumb, it sticks out. Be very careful: AI is very good at deception in such a way that you think it is truth. Of course, it is not a purposeful thing on the part of AI: AI follows vector dot products, cross products, and probabilities. AI does not know what the next word of output will be until it is output.

After you complete your SR paragraph, you may submit it back to AI for proofreading. Again, relatively small changes may happen but you are still responsible for the physics contained in your paragraph.

Because of the relaxed assistance, you are not permitted to hand in SR after the deadlines provided unless you had an excused absence from a particular lab. **This means you must have completed the labs and have them accepted before the deadlines.**

# **CLASS SCHEDULE / OFFICE HOURS Fall 2026**

**Professor: Stuart Hutton**

| Monday                                                              | Tuesday                                                | Wednesday                                                                    | Thursday                                                                     | Friday                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-8:50<br>PHY240.01<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics I<br>Derby 007 | 8:00-9:15                                              | 8:00-8:50<br>PHY240.01<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics I<br>Derby 007          | 8:00-9:15                                                                    | 8:00-8:50<br>PHY240.01<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics I<br>Derby 007          |
| 9:00-9:50<br>PHY210.01<br>General<br>Physics 1<br>Derby 007         |                                                        | 9:00-9:50<br>PHY210.01<br>General<br>Physics 1<br>Derby 007                  |                                                                              | 9:00-9:50<br>PHY210.01<br>General<br>Physics 1<br>Derby 007                  |
|                                                                     | 9:30-10:00                                             |                                                                              | 9:30-10:00                                                                   |                                                                              |
| 10:00-10:50<br><br>Office Hours<br>Derby 248                        | 10:00 - 10:50                                          | 10:10-10:50<br><br>Office Hours<br>Derby 248                                 | 10:00 - 10:50                                                                | 10:10-10:50<br><br>Office Hours<br>Derby 248                                 |
| 11:00-11:50                                                         | 11:00 - 11:50<br>Phy321<br>Astrophotography            | 11:00-11:50                                                                  | 11:00-11:50<br>Phy390                                                        | 11:00-11:50                                                                  |
| 12:00 - 12:30<br>Phy335<br>Modern Physics                           | 12:00 - 12:50                                          | 12:00 - 12:50                                                                | 12:15-12:50<br><br>reflections                                               | 12:00 - 12:50                                                                |
|                                                                     |                                                        |                                                                              |                                                                              |                                                                              |
| 13:00-15:00                                                         | 13:00-14:30<br>14:30-15:40<br>Phy335<br>Modern Physics | 13:00-15:50<br>PHY241.01<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics<br>Lab 1<br>Derby 148 | 13:00-15:50<br>PHY241.02<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics<br>Lab 1<br>Derby 148 | 13:00-15:50<br>PHY241.03<br>Fundamentals<br>of Physics<br>Lab 1<br>Derby 148 |
| 15:00 - 15:50<br>Phy335<br>Modern Physics                           |                                                        |                                                                              |                                                                              |                                                                              |
|                                                                     | 16:00-16:50<br>Div Meetings<br>Fac <u>Assy</u>         | 16:00-16:50<br>P&T<br><u>Worthington</u>                                     |                                                                              |                                                                              |

| Tentative Schedule for Physics 390.01: Fall 2026 |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Week beginning:                                  | Events                                  | Topics (presented on dates shown)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | who presents what |
| <b>August 18</b>                                 | Organizational meeting                  | Assignment of topics for next classes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |
| <b>P1:August 17, 2026</b>                        | 10 minute presentations 01<br>Update 01 | <b>Mechanics I</b><br>Statics<br>Kinematics<br>Motion<br>Conservation of energy<br>Conservation of momentum<br>Uniform circular motion<br>Newton's laws<br><b>Preliminary topic submission</b>                                                                                     | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P2:August 24, 2026</b>                        | 10 minute presentations 02<br>Update 02 | <b>Mechanics II</b><br>Torque and Equilibrium<br>Rolling motion<br>Gravity<br>Non-uniform circular motion<br>Simple harmonic oscillation<br>Conservation of angular momentum<br>Rigid body rotational motion<br><b>Revised prelim topic submission</b>                             | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P3:August 31, 2026</b>                        | 10 minute presentations 03<br>Update 03 | <b>Waves</b><br>Traveling pulses<br>Standing waves<br>Transverse waves on strings<br>Sound<br>TEM waves<br>Longitudinal waves<br>Energy and power transmission by waves<br><b>Revised prelim topic submission</b>                                                                  | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P4:September 07, 2026</b>                     | 10 minute presentations 04<br>Update 04 | <b>Thermodynamics</b><br>Calorimetry<br>linear expansion<br>ideal gas<br>internal energy<br>entropy<br>adiabatic ideal gas<br>Carnot Cycle and heat engine<br><b>Formal topics submission for approval</b>                                                                         | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P5:September 14, 2026</b>                     | 10 minute presentations 05<br>Update 05 | <b>Electrostatics</b><br>Coulomb's law<br>Electric dipole<br>Gauss's Law<br>Electrostatic Field<br>Electrostatic Potential<br>Capacitance and energy density<br>Resistance and current<br><b>Formal Progress Update 01</b>                                                         | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P6:September 21, 2026</b>                     | 10 minute presentations 06<br>Update 06 | <b>Magnetism</b><br>Ampere's law<br>Law of Biot-Savart<br>Solenoid<br>magnetization<br>Inductance<br>Displacement current<br>Electrostatic and magnetostatic energy density<br><b>Formal Progress Update 02</b>                                                                    | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P7:September 28, 2026</b>                     | 10 minute presentations 07<br>Update 07 | <b>Optics</b><br>Snell's Law<br>images formed with thin lenses<br>images formed with spherical mirrors<br>dispersion and prisms<br>polarization and Brewster's angle<br>interference of light waves<br>Multiple reflections from plane mirrors<br><b>Formal Progress Update 03</b> | ALL               |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
|                                                  |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>P8:October 05, 2026</b>                       | 10 minute presentations 08<br>Update 08 | <b>Misc. Physics Topics I</b><br>(Student Selected)<br><b>Formal Progress Update 04</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            | ALL               |
| <b>P9:October 12, 2026</b>                       | 10 minute presentations 09<br>Update 09 | <b>Misc. Physics Topics II</b><br>(Student Selected)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ALL               |

|                               |                                         |                                                                                                   |     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                               |                                         | <b>Formal Progress Update 05</b>                                                                  |     |
| <b>P10:October 19, 2026</b>   | 10 minute presentations 10<br>Update 10 | <b>Misc. Physics Topics III</b><br>(Student Selected)<br><b>All Formal Paper Rough Drafts Due</b> | ALL |
| <b>FP01:October 26, 2026</b>  | 30 minute presentation                  | <b>All Formal Topic Papers Due</b>                                                                | tbd |
| <b>FP02:November 02, 2026</b> | 30 minute presentation                  |                                                                                                   | tbd |
| <b>FP03:November 16, 2026</b> | makeups                                 | Meet if needed                                                                                    | tbd |
| <b>FP04:November 30, 2026</b> | makeups                                 | Meet if needed                                                                                    | tbd |

## Physics 390: Seminar Presentation Rubric Fall 2026

| Category              | 3                                                                                               | 2                                                                                                                     | 1                                                                                                       | 0                                                                                                             | Totals |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Preparedness</b>   | Student completely prepared and has clearly rehearsed                                           | Student is mostly prepared but could have rehearsed more                                                              | Student is somewhat prepared but should have rehearsed                                                  | Student is unprepared                                                                                         |        |
| <b>Speaks Clearly</b> | Speaks clearly and distinctly during entire presentation. Makes good contact with audience.     | Speaks clearly and distinctly most of the time, a few words poorly said or misused. Makes good contact with audience. | Difficult to hear and understand most of the time and little contact with audience                      | Mumbles and / or can not be understood. Avoided contact with audience.                                        |        |
| <b>Visuals</b>        | Pdf, board work, and other props appropriate and correct.                                       | Pdf, board work, and other props mostly appropriate with a few shortcomings including incorrect physics.              | Pdf, board work, and other props relatively few and some may not represent correct physics.             | Pdf, board work, and other props poorly done, with incorrect physics presented.                               |        |
| <b>Time Limits</b>    | Presentation of appropriate length, including time for questions.                               | Presentation too short or too long. time for questions ok.                                                            | Presentation way too short or way too long. time for questions ok.                                      | Presentation way too short or way too long. time for questions not ok                                         |        |
| <b>Comprehension</b>  | Student accurately answers all reasonable questions. Student shows full understanding of topic. | Student accurately answers most reasonable questions. Student shows good understanding of topic.                      | Student accurately answers some reasonable questions. Student understanding is shaky on parts of topic. | Student can not accurately answer reasonable questions. Student does not really understand topic.             |        |
| <b>Participation</b>  | Listens intently, asks good, relevant questions pertaining to the presentation.                 | Does not always listen and/or may ask irrelevant questions.                                                           | Listens but did not ask required questions.                                                             | Does not listen, shows interruptive behavior (including late arrival). Questions not asked or are irrelevant. |        |
| <b>Attendance</b>     |                                                                                                 | Student arrives on time and is present throughout all presentations.                                                  |                                                                                                         | Student misses any portion of seminar.                                                                        |        |

**Note that the maximum score per shorter presentation is 20 points. In the final grade calculation, the sum from all shorter presentations is scaled to give 10 points per shorter presentation in the final grade.**

## Student Learning Outcomes for the Physics Program at Lyon College Fall 2026

1. Students who complete physics seminar (Phy390) are able to:
  - 1a. give short technical presentations over topics from general physics.
  - 1b. investigate topics in other areas of general physics and provide short technical presentations over these areas.
  - 1c. investigate one topic in greater depth, providing a formal paper covering an in-depth presentation. The formal paper will consist largely of notes accompanying an in-depth 25 minute presentation.
  - 1d. experience being attentive listeners and to be able ask physically relevant questions in an audience of peers.
  - 1e. construct simple electronic presentations for a technical audience of peers.

### Skill: Oral Communication

Purpose: Oral communication is a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

Lyon College Core Curriculum Goal #1:

Students will develop the skills that will enable them to be effective communicators.

Goal #1, SLO #2:

Formulate effective oral presentations, giving appropriate consideration to audience, context, format, and content, using appropriate visual and graphic elements.

Framing language: This rubric is specifically designed to evaluate oral presentations of a single speaker at a time and is best applied to live or video-recorded presentations, whether persuasive, informative, or "special occasion" in content. For the purposes of this document, "rhetorical devices" in the "Content" criterion may refer to strategies such as explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, and quotations from relevant authorities. To review the specialized use of verbs, see [Bloom's Taxonomy of Verbs](#).

|                       | 3: Exceeds Expectations                                                                                                                                                             | 2: Satisfactory                                                                                                                                                                | 1: Beginning                                                                                                                                              | 0: No Evidence |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Content               | Demonstrates command of subject material, using rhetorical devices appropriate to the subject in order to strengthen the message, with clear signposts creating strong organization | Shows familiarity with subject material, making occasional use of rhetorical devices appropriate to the subject, with logical flow but lacking clear signposts and transitions | Shows lack of comfort with subject matter, making no use of rhetorical devices appropriate to the subject, lacking a discernible organizational structure |                |
| Delivery (non-verbal) | Holds attention of audience—for example with steady eye-contact, minimal use of notes, and purposeful body language                                                                 | Displays consistent use of eye-contact punctuated by use of notes; body language does not distract from delivery                                                               | Displays inconsistent use of eye-contact, over-reliance on notes, and body-language undermines delivery                                                   |                |
| Delivery (verbal)     | Holds attention of audience—for example with clear voice, inflection, and tone; precise pronunciation; and the elimination of filler-words                                          | Displays clear voice and precise pronunciation, inconsistent use of tone, with several filler-words interrupting delivery                                                      | Displays a low volume typified by monotone, struggles with pronunciation, and over-relies on filler-words                                                 |                |