Physics 43 Book/Presentation Project Info

**The Book Project**

Choose a book on modern physics that is related to the topic of your presentation. It should be something you are interested in and not much more than a few hundred pages. I suggest finding the subject of your presentation FIRST and then finding the book. You will write a short book review that should read like a New York Times Book Review, answering the basic questions: What is the book about? What is the modern physics in it? What is the level of math/physics in the book? What biases did the author have, if any? What did you like/dislike about the book? To whom would you recommend the book to, if anybody? Reviews should be about 1,000 words but no more than 2,000 words, please! I will grade on spelling and grammar so please use spell check or a tutor to help you with it. One book per student so the earlier you turn in your book/project proposal, the sooner you lay claim to the book. It might help you to read a few New York Times Book Reviews. But please don’t even think about plagiarizing the NY Times or Wikipedia! (I have a computer online too!;-) Book reviews are due at the time of your presentation. No exceptions.

**The Presentation Project**

You may work alone or with one partner on a presentation on a topic in modern physics. It can be almost ANYTHING in which you describe and explain how modern physics is related to it. See the list of possible ideas on the website. You can choose one of those or come up with your own. I suggest picking the subject first and then finding a book related to it. You and your partner can both find different books on the same subject, which will only make you both more informed and better prepared for making your presentation. Your presentation should last about 15-20 minutes – NO LONGER. You will take questions for 10 minutes after the presentation. You may include demos if possible. You must have a power point presentation and a short summary report on your topic (~1,000 words typed). You must hand out copies of your report to the class (20 copies) at the start of your presentation. (You can use my photocopier.)

The focus of your presentation must be the MODERN PHYSICS in your topic and the level must be appropriate to our class. If there are two in your team, both members must talk or do something. Handouts are welcome. Teach us something cool and important! Have fun! Make sure you practice a few time before doing it so that you are within your time limit. I will have to cut you off if you go over time, which will cost you points. I will be more than happy to help you with it if you want to practice with me before you go before your peers. I and the class will grade you on your presentation. We will grade you on the following criteria:

1. How well was the modern physics explained?
2. Was the level of math and physics appropriate to our class?
3. How well prepared were the presenters?
4. How well developed were the power point presentation, report and other materials?

Presentations will be made the last 2 class sessions and on the final exam day. The order of presentations will be determined by lottery. I must approve both the presentation topic and book by March 1st. Use the online proposal form. If you get into reading and doing research and decide you hate your topic or book and want to change it, come see me ASAP. Any changes must be made by April 9th – before Spring Break. I will also need an electronic copy of your power point file, report and book review. You might want to just burn me a CD – that would be nice. We will put stuff on our class website.