Physics 593
Practicum in Teaching Physics & Astronomy
Fall Semester 2015
Registration and Questionnaire

Please complete this top tear-off sheet and hand it to your instructor at the end of class

Name (printed) ____________________________________________ Last (Family) First (Given) Initial

Signature ___________________________________________________ USC ID _____________________________

What degree program are you pursuing? Subject: __________________ Degree: __________

How many terms have you enrolled at USC? (e.g., 1="This is my first semester") __________

If you are successful in your degree pursuit, when do you anticipate graduating? __________

What is your career goal? _______________________________________________________________________

Laboratory Assignment
For what course(s) have you been assigned as a lab TA this term? _____________________________

At what time(s) have you been assigned to teach in the above course(s)? Check one box in this table for each assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Time</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-11</td>
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<td>11-2</td>
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<td>2-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Previous Work
As a student
Do you have a Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in Physics? __________

If not, list all physics courses you have taken beyond Freshman Physics: ____________________________________________

As an instructor
List any experience you have had as a lab TA, grader, or discussion leader in any department at USC or elsewhere as an undergraduate or graduate student.

Questions/Comments
If you have any question or comment about registration in this class which has not been answered satisfactorily in the first class meeting, please write it here.
Physics 593 is a practical introduction to teaching for graduate assistants in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. It is required as a condition of holding a teaching assistantship by the Department and by the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

During this course you will learn to recognize the techniques of successful instructors and practice these techniques in your own teaching venues. Following this course you should be more successful yourself in your current teaching assignment as a laboratory TA and be better prepared for future teaching opportunities, regardless of your future career goal. This course should thus be regarded as a first course in teacher development.

I. Course Instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gould</td>
<td>goold</td>
<td>SSC 204</td>
<td>MW 2-3</td>
<td>740-1101</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gould@usc.edu">gould@usc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Course Materials

None required, however there are some good books I can recommend for you to read:


2. *McKeachie’s Teaching Tips*, 14th ed., Wilbert McKeachie and Marilla Svinicki (Cengage Learning, 2013), and


While these books have considerable advice for teaching assistants who need to lead discussion sections or who lecture as the core component of a course, much advice is useful to laboratory TAs and generally applicable to all teaching capacities which involve direct interactions with undergraduate students.

III. Administrivia

III.A. Prerequisites/ Recommended Preparation

There are no prerequisites to take this class. However, it is expected that all students are presently in their first term of direct student contact employed as a teaching assistant in the Department of Physics & Astronomy.

III.B. Registration/ Class Schedule

There is only one component in this course: weekly meetings on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. As this is a practicum, you are expected to employ the principles you have learned in this course. Consequently, the instructor will occasionally make unscheduled and unannounced visits to your laboratories to observe your interactions with your students. Additionally, some assignments for the course will require your attendance in other classes and colloquia.
III.C. Disabilities
The DSP office requests that we include the following statement:
“Students who need to request accommodations based on a disability are required to register each semester with the Disability Services and Programs. In addition, a letter of verification to the instructor from the Disability Services and Programs is needed for the semester you are enrolled in this course. If you have any questions concerning this procedure, please contact the course instructor and Disability Services and Programs at (213) 740-0776, STU 301.” DSP is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

III.D. Academic Integrity
The University Curriculum Committee requests that we include the following statement:
“USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/”

III.E. Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity
The University Curriculum Committee requests that we include the following statement:
“In case of emergency, and travel to campus is difficult, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.”

IV. Grading
This course is graded Credit/ No Credit. There will be assigned readings and occasional homework assignments to prepare presentations to the class.

Laboratory Performance 30%
Laboratory Review 25%
Associated Class Attendance 15%
Lab Preparation 10%
Professional Development 10%
Class Participation 10%

IV.A. Laboratory Performance – 30%
Dr. Gould will visit one or two of your laboratory sections during the semester (unannounced, but not before week five). It is expected that you will exhibit good practices in leading your section at this time.
**IV.B. Laboratory Review – 25%**

With prior agreement you will visit one laboratory section (but not before week five) of any other student in the class, and observe the laboratory from its scheduled start time for at least one hour. (Naturally this visit cannot occur during your own laboratory class.) Following your visit you will write a two page paper (double-spaced) detailing what you observed, both good and not-so-good, concerning both content and presentation style, and include recommendations. Sharing your report with the subject TA is encouraged but not required. Discussion of reports in class will be anonymous.

**IV.C. Associated Class Attendance – 15%**

During the semester you will attend at least seven lectures in any course associated with any lab you are teaching and write up a brief (one page double spaced) report on the following issues: (1) the content of the lecture, (2) the methods by which the instructor attempted to convey that content to the students,(3) your assessment of the instructor’s likely success in that conveyance, including any recommendations you would make for changes in the lecture, and (4) your observations of the students in that lecture. Since most classes associated with labs have multiple lecture sections, you may choose to write all of your reports on a single instructor or split them among the various instructors.

**IV.D. Lab Preparation – 10%**

Preparing for each new laboratory experiment you will attend a weekly training session led by your laboratory course’s head TA.

**IV.E. Professional Development – 10%**

Students who are in the Department of Physics & Astronomy will attend at least seven of the regular departmental colloquia on Monday afternoons immediately following our class. If you are not in the department, you will still attend at least seven colloquia, but may choose to attend either the Physics & Astronomy colloquium, or a colloquium in your home department. For non-Physics students a two paragraph report is required from each such colloquium describing (1) the content of the speaker’s presentation, and (2) your assessment of the speaker’s style of presentation, with an eye toward issues discussed in 593.

**IV.F. Class Participation – 10%**

It is expected that you will make a good faith effort to attend every class session, to participate regularly in its discussions by sharing your thoughts and experiences, and to apply the principles discussed in your own teaching assignments.

**V. Classroom Behavior**

Please turn off (or silence) your cell phone. Generally speaking, during class we do not allow open laptop computers. Owing to the nature of this course, laptop computers have no demonstrated productive pedagogical use during class time. Computers will have plenty of uses outside of lecture, but during the lecture their use is counterproductive. Similarly, we do not allow open newspapers. If you prefer to browse the web or the newspaper, please do so at home.
## VI. Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>The First Class Meeting: Setting the Tone for the Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Legal Issues Involving Your Students and Your Employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Labor Day – University Holiday – No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>Legal Issues, Part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 21</td>
<td>Proctoring and Grading Exams: A Timely Preview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 28</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Presentation Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Homework Assignments and Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Keeping Your Laboratory Students On Task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Dealing with Difficult Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Leading a Discussion Section in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>The Future: Planning Your Own Lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Reflections on the Motive Power of … Your Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>No Class – Thanksgiving Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>No Class – Make-up Labs Only This Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>