

Department of Physics

Changes to 33-775, Introduction to Research

The course 33-775, Introduction to Research I, formerly called Experimental Physics, has been given in many different forms over the years. The invariant portion of this course is the presentation of talks by the various research groups in the Department of Physics. Two years ago, an experimental component has been put back into this course. This required an average of 6 hours of work in order to perform the experiments and analyze and write up the resulting data. The assignment of 6 credit unit for this course reflected this arrangement.

This form of 33-775 has proven to be a significant additional burden on entering graduate students. They already have a combination of heavy course work and teaching duties as TA's that proves difficult for many of them to keep up with. The Department has decided to drop the experimental component of 33-775, keep the core presentations from research groups. As a result, the Department of Physics requests that the credit for this course be reduced from 6 units to 1 unit in conformity with the present content and associated time commitment that is required.