

PHY5502: FRONTIERS IN PHYSICS

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Frontiers in Physics

Subject Code

PHY - Physics

Course Number

5502

Academic Unit

Physics (PHY)

College/School

College of Science (SI)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course is to bring the recent advances of physics research to students. It will cover several research themes, such as Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics; Quantum materials; Soft Matter and Biophysics; Spectroscopy and Imaging; Theoretical and Computational Physics. Each lecture will cover a different topic.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To be familiar with frontiers in physics			x	
2	To be able to write a literature review of a research area			x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lectures to cover the recent advances of several research areas	1, 2	14 hours

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Write a literature review	1, 2	100	Pick a research topic, read relevant literature and write a short review article	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

For a student to pass the course, at least 30% of the maximum mark for the Continuous Assessment must be obtained.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1.

Criterion

Writing of a review article that clearly describe (i) the motivation of a research area; (ii) specific research problems of this research area; (iii) contributions made by the researchers in this research area; (iv) future directions of this research area.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Reaching marginal level

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal level

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Recent advances in various research areas of physics

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Articles in the journal “Reviews of Modern Physics”