

Physics and Astronomy Graduate TA Training Schedule, Fall 2011

General sessions are held in Phillips 277 except as noted. Labs are in rooms 204, 208, 275, 273.

Times for each activity are approximate.

Last revised: 8/11/11

Objectives for TA workshop – become acclimated to the department, learn policies and expectations, perform labs, write reports, give practice pre-lab presentation, get feedback, learn from each other, make friends, have fun!

Expectations of new graduate student TAs:

- Participate in all relevant orientation activities. If you cannot attend a session, be sure to let the Lab Director (Duane Deardorff) know. You are responsible for learning any information covered during that time.
- Read all applicable materials and ask questions to clarify any confusing points.
- Prepare and deliver one 5-minute presentation from the provided list of topics.
- P104/105/116L TAs: Perform all (9) experiments for labs you will/might teach.
 - Write a complete report (same format as student reports) for one (1) experiment.
 - Analyze data and write conclusions for remaining eight (8) experiments.
 - Submit conclusions for all experiments to Duane by first day of labs.
 - Add comments and suggestions to Teaching Tips sheets and submit to Duane.
- Prepare and deliver 1 pre-lab presentation; submit self-evaluation to Duane.
- Complete all assigned homework (error analysis, syllabus, lesson plans).
- Perform Lab Exam for assigned course and score at least 80% to demonstrate proficiency.
- Get to know other students, faculty, staff, and have fun!

Monday, Aug. 15

- 9:00 – 9:30 Breakfast for new students, get acquainted activity
- 9:30 – 9:45 Welcome, introductions, overview of workshop - Duane
- 9:45 – 10:00 Offices/keys/policies – Shannon Mitchell
- 10:00 – 10:30 Payroll issues – Julia Carvalho
- 10:30 – 10:45 computer resources, account applications
- 10:45 – 11:15 Overview of labs, recitations, PTC, TA assignments
- 11:15 – 11:30 Break
- 11:30 – 12:00 P&A graduate student advising overview – Sean Washburn
- 12:00 – 12:30 Department and campus tour
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch at *McAllister's, Pizza & Pasta*, or other
- 1:30 – 2:00 PER - what we know and why we care about teaching & learning
- 2:00 – 3:00 Open versus closed questions
- 3:00 – 3:30 Error analysis, data analysis, and graphing
- 3:30 – 5:00 Lab time, explore resources – lab rooms

Task checklist for new TAs

- get keys, examine office
- file required HR forms
- physics computer account
- confirm TA assignment

- sign up for 5-min. talk
- get One Card with PID
(sometime in next week)

- read meas. and error section in lab manual
- complete uncertainty quiz

Tuesday, Aug. 16

- 9:00 – 9:45 Breakfast (department invited)
- 9:45 – 9:55 Newcomer's Seminar discussion – Rene Lopez
- 9:55 – 10:00 GSA announcement
- 10:00 – 10:30 Error analysis, review homework
- 10:30 – 11:30 Syllabus prep., university policies, Honor Code, scenarios
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lab time
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 How Students Reason
- 2:30 – 3:30 5-minute presentations by new grad students (9)
- 3:30 – 3:45 Example pre-lab talk – Duane Deardorff
- 3:45 – 5:00 Lab time

- review uncertainty quiz
- prepare syllabus and lesson plan for first day
- write full lab report

- prepare/give 5-min. talk
- sign up for pre-lab talk
- prepare pre-lab talk

Wednesday, Aug. 17

- 9:00 – 9:15 Breakfast
9:15 – 10:10 Constructing knowledge
10:15 – 11:10 Assessment of student understanding, grading issues
11:20 – 12:30 5-minute presentations by new grad students (10)
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 Concrete and formal reasoning
2:30 – 3:30 TA pre-lab presentations and feedback (6) lab report 1 due
3:30 – 5:00 Lab time, graduate student advising (especially int'l students) register for classes

Thursday, Aug. 18

- 8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast
9:00 – 4:30 UNC Graduate Student Orientation – Memorial Hall

Friday, Aug. 19

- 9:00 – 9:15 Breakfast
9:00 – 1:00 *English testing for international students – Hamilton 100*
9:15 – 10:15 TA pre-lab presentations and feedback (4) syllabus and lesson due
10:15 – 11:30 Graduate student advising write short lab reports
10:15 – 12:30 Lab time submit self-evaluation
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 TA pre-lab presentations and feedback (4)
2:00 – 5:00 *International Student Orientation – Global Educ. Center Aud.*
2:30 – 5:00 Lab time

Saturday, Aug. 20

- 9:30 – 2:00 CFE Orientation for all TAs – Student Union Auditorium

Monday, Aug. 22

- 9:00 – 9:15 Breakfast
9:15 – 10:00 Additional teaching considerations, orientation evaluation
10:00 – 11:00 TA pre-lab presentations and feedback (6)
11:00 – 12:30 Lab time
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 5:00 Lab time
2:00 – 2:30 Organizational meeting for P104L TAs – Phillips 206
2:30 – 3:00 Organizational meeting for P105L TAs – Phillips 275
3:00 – 3:30 Organizational meeting for P116L TAs – Phillips 273
3:30 – 5:00 WebAssign training for P104&105 lab TAs – Phillips 277

Tuesday, Aug. 23 – UNC classes begin

- 2:00 – 4:00 Lab exam for intro physics lab TAs – Phillips 275 submit Lab Exam
 all 9 experiments performed

Note: Items in italics are for international graduate students only.