

Physics 110: Fall 2003 – Extra Dimensions

September 24, 2003

General Information:

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Office Location Tech F226

Class Location Tech LG62

Class Time 2-3:30 MW

Office Hours Monday 11-12, Wednesday 1-2 and other times by appointment

Reading and Resources

- Brian Greene, The Elegant Universe
- New York Times Tuesday Science Section
- The NOVA "Elegant Universe" page
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/elegant/>
Nova is doing a show on the Elegant Universe this quarter, they are assembling a web page with related materials.

First Assignment:

1. Read the first chapter of Green by Monday the 29th.
2. Read the academic integrity document, we're going to talk about it on Monday. WCAS requires that you sign a form saying you've read it.

3. For Wednesday the 31st, read the New York Times Science section on Tuesday. If you can't get the paper it is posted in the Engineering Library each week and you can view the online edition at

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html>

We'll discuss the articles that have to do with size scales in class on Wednesday.

First Writing Assignment

Draft due October 6th, Final version due October 13th at 2PM.

Pretend I am a funding agency and that I will give you \$10,000 to study the scientific topic of your choice¹ if you can convince me that it is worthwhile.

- Describe the topic you wish to study? Why is it interesting? Why should I be interested in it?
- Describe the method you would use to study it and how you would spend the funds.

Here's how we will proceed, a week earlier we will brainstorm for good ideas in class. Over the weekend you write and on Monday we will discuss the drafts in class. You then turn in the rewritten drafts the following Monday. For this project, you can use external sources to justify your assertions, you will need to provide references or footnotes for the justification to count.

It is ok for the basic premise to be rather ridiculous, as long as the justification is written in a serious tone. Last year I got a proposal to do a marketing study of selling advertising space on all the tree leaves on campus.

¹This is practice for the real thing, WCAS gives research grants to students for Honor's Thesis work.