Cal Poly Department of Physics: COURSE OFFERINGS Fall 2023 - Spring 2026

COURSES in BOLD are required for Physics BS

SU=Summer, F=Fall, W=Winter, SP=Spring

*** OFFERINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Courses with low enrollment may be cancelled.**

ASTR-Astronomy			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
ASTR 101	4	Introduction to the Solar System	F, W, SP, SU
ASTR 102	4	Introduction to Stars and Galaxies	F, W, SP
ASTR 200	1 to 2	Special Problems for Undergraduates	As needed
ASTR 270	1 to 4	Selected Topics	As needed
ASTR 301	3	Planetary Systems	W24, W26
ASTR 302	3	Stars and Galaxies	SP
ASTR 324	4	Longitude, Navigation, and Timekeeping	W25
ASTR 326	3	Cosmology	F23, F24, F25
ASTR 400	1 to 2	Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
ASTR 404	1 to 2	Research Experience for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
ASTR 444	4	Observational Astronomy (with lab)	F23, F24
ASTR 470	1 to 4	Selected Advanced Topics	As needed
ASTR 471	1 to 2	Selected Advanced Laboratory	As needed

GEOL-Geology			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
GEOL 102	4	Introduction to Geology	W, SP
GEOL 200	1 to 2	Special Problems for Undergraduates	As needed
GEOL 201	3	Physical Geology	F, W, SP
GEOL 203	4	The Geologic Record: Fossils and the History of Life	W
GEOL 206	1	Geologic Excursions	F, SP
GEOL 241	1	Physical Geology Laboratory	F, W, SP
GEOL 270	1 to 4	Selected Topics	As needed
GEOL 301	4	Physical Models in the Geosciences	F
GEOL 303	3	Computation and Visualization in the Geosciences	W
GEOL 305	4	Seismology and Earth Structure	SP
GEOL 309	3	Igneous Petrology	SP
GEOL 311	3	Metamorphic Petrology	SP
GEOL 330	4	Principles of Stratigraphy	SP24, SP26
GEOL 400	1 to 2	Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
GEOL 404	1 to 2	Research Experience for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
GEOL 415	4	Structural Geology	F
GEOL 416	4	Field-Geology Methods	W
GEOL 417	4	Geologic Mapping	SP
GEOL 420	3	Applied Geophysics	F
GEOL 470	1 to 4	Selected Advanced Topics	As needed
GEOL 471	1 to 4	Selected Advanced Laboratory	As needed

PHYS-Physics (100-200 Level)			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
PHYS 100	1	Introduction to the Physics Major	F
PHYS 104	4	Introductory Physics	F
PHYS 111	4	Contemporary Physics for Non-Scientists	F
PHYS 121	4	College Physics I	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 122	4	College Physics II	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 123	4	College Physics III	F, W, SP
PHYS 125	1	College Physics I Laboratory	F, W, SP
PHYS 141	**4**	**General Physics I (Calculus Based)**	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 142	**4**	**General Physics II (Calculus Based)**	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 143	**4**	**General Physics III (Calculus Based)**	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 200	1 to 2	Special Problems for Undergraduates	As needed
PHYS 202	**4**	**Physics on the Computer**	SP
PHYS 206	**4**	**Electronics and Instrumentation**	W
PHYS 211	**4**	**Modern Physics I**	F, W, SP
PHYS 212	**4**	**Modern Physics II**	SP
PHYS 220	1 (CR/NC)	Introduction to Physics Research	F

PHYS 270	1 to 4	Selected Topics	As needed

PHYS-Physics (300-400 Level)			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
PHYS 301	**4**	**Thermal Physics I**	W
PHYS 305	**4**	**Classical Mechanics I**	F
PHYS 306	3	Classical Mechanics II	W
PHYS 310	3	Physics of Energy	SP25
PHYS 313	3	Introduction to Atmospheric Physics	Not offered
PHYS 314	3	Ocean Dynamics	SP23, SP25
PHYS 315	3	Lasers	SP24
PHYS 318	3	Special Theory of Relativity	W24, W26
PHYS 320	**4**	**Methods of Theoretical Physics I**	F
PHYS 321	**4**	**Methods of Theoretical Physics II**	W
PHYS 323	4	Optics (with lab)	W
PHYS 330	4	Teaching Physics	SP24, SP26
PHYS 340	**2**	**Quantum Physics Laboratory I**	F
PHYS 341	**2**	**Quantum Physics Laboratory II**	W
PHYS 342	1	Quantum Physics Laboratory III	SP
PHYS 345	4	Quantum Computing	SP
PHYS 357	3	Advanced Instrumentation in Experimental Physics (with lab)	SP25
PHYS 400	1 to 2	Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
PHYS 401	3	Thermal Physics II	SP24, SP26
PHYS 403	3	Particle and Nuclear Physics	SP24
PHYS 404	1	Research Experience for Advanced Undergraduates	As needed
PHYS 405	**4**	**Quantum Mechanics I**	SP
PHYS 406	3	Quantum Mechanics II	F
PHYS 408	**4**	**Electromagnetic Fields and Waves I**	F
PHYS 409	3	Electromagnetic Fields and Waves II	W
PHYS 410	3	Physics of Solid Earth	W26
PHYS 418	3	Introduction to General Relativity	SP25
PHYS 423	4	Advanced Optics (with lab)	SP25
PHYS 425	3	Solid State Physics	F
PHYS 426	1	Solid State Physics Laboratory	SP24, SP26
PHYS 427	3	Advanced Topics in Solid State Physics	SP24, SP26
PHYS 428	4	Nonlinear Dynamical Systems (with lab)	SP24, SP26
PHYS 461	**2**	**Senior Project I**	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 462	**2**	**Senior Project II**	F, W, SP, SU
PHYS 470	1 to 4	Selected Advanced Topics	As needed
PHYS 471	1 to 4	Selected Advanced Laboratory	As needed
PHYS 485	6	Cooperative Education Experience - Part-time	As needed
PHYS 495	12	Cooperative Education Experience - Full-time	As needed

PSC-Physical Science			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
PSC 101	4	Matter and Energy	F, W, SP
PSC 102	4	Atoms and Molecules	W
PSC 103	4	The Physical Environment: Earth	SP
PSC 201	4	Physical Oceanography	F, W, SP
PSC 307	4	Nuclear Energy and Weapons in the Modern World	SP25
PSC 320	4	Energy, Society, and the Environment	W
PSC 391	4	Appropriate Technology for the World's People: Development	F
PSC 392	4	Appropriate Technology for the World's People: Design	SP
PSC 424	4	Organizing and Teaching Science	F
PSC 425	2	Clinical Experience in Teaching Science Seminar	W, SP
PSC 491	4	Appropriate Technology for the World's People: Development	F
PSC 492	4	Appropriate Technology for the World's People: Design	SP

SCM - Science and Math			
Course#	Units	Course Title	Qtr(s) Offered*
SCM 230	2	Seminar for Learning Assistants	F, W, SP
SCM 302	2	The Learn By Doing Lab Teaching Practicum	W, SP

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