

## Physics 431: Particle and Nuclear Physics Spring, 2017

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Prerequisites: PHY 308 (quantum physics); it is also assumed that students have taken 1 course including PHY 251 (modern physics).

Course requirements: homework, midterm, and final exam

First meeting time/place: Tue. Jan. 24, 2017, 8:30 AM, Room TBA; office hr. TBA

The main textbook is D. Griffiths, *Introduction to Elementary Particles* (2010). Another book is C. Quigg, *Gauge Theories of the Strong, Electromagnetic, and Weak Interactions* also use information from various websites.

This is a senior-level undergraduate course on particle and nuclear physics covering topic following list:

- Basic properties and interactions of elementary particles
- Early history of discoveries of elementary particles and connection with nuclear physics
- Relativistic kinematics, calculation of scattering cross sections and decay rates
- Dirac equation, gamma matrices
- Introduction to quantum field theory, Lagrangians, and use of Feynman diagrams for calculations
- Accelerators and particle detectors
- Symmetries, groups, and conservation laws; SU(2) and spin; chiral and vectorial “flavor” symmetries
- Concept of gauge invariance, gauge interactions; abelian (QED) and non-abelian (Yang-Mills) gauge theories
- Electromagnetic interactions and properties of elementary particles
- Weak interactions and beta decay, Fermi current-current theory and applications to muon and pion decays
- Construction of a unified electroweak SU(2) × U(1)<sub>Y</sub> gauge theory; role of spontaneous symmetry breaking; vector boson masses and couplings; observation of W and Z; Higgs mechanism; other tests, including muon g - 2
- Fermion couplings and masses; Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa quark mixing matrix; Glashow-Iliopoulos-Maiani mechanism; K<sup>0</sup> -  $\bar{K}^0$  mixing, B<sup>0</sup> -  $\bar{B}^0$ , and D<sub>0</sub> -  $\bar{D}_0$  mixing; K<sub>L</sub> → μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>, CP violation
- Quantum chromodynamics with SU(3) color gauge group, including early indications of confinement, inelastic scattering and asymptotic freedom, quarkonium, heavy quarks c, b, t; jets, chiral symmetry breaking; residual strong interactions between hadrons; scattering
- Properties of nuclei as bound states of nucleons: masses, radii, stability considerations; β, γ, α decays; nuclear reactions; models for nuclei; fission and nuclear power
- Neutrino masses and lepton mixing as evidence of physics beyond the SM; types of neutrinos, models of neutrino masses, searches for neutrino masses in nuclear and particle experiments; neutrinoless double beta decay, theory and experiments on solar and atmospheric neutrinos; accelerator neutrino experiments, reactor antineutrino experiments