

PHYS-405

**Experimental methods in physics**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Ing.-phys	MA1, MA3	Opt.
Physicien	MA1, MA3	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>3 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
Exercises	1 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Summary**

The course's objectives are: Learning several advanced methods in experimental physics, and critical reading of experimental papers.

**Content**

- **Noise and interference:** Their origins, their influence on experimental results, methods for noise and interference reduction
- **Scanning probe microscopy (SPM):** Principles of operation of the scanning tunneling microscope and atomic force microscope, Advanced scanning microscopy techniques, applications
- **Optical spectroscopies:** The elements of a modern spectroscopy system, methods of spectral dispersion and their advantages, optical detectors
- **Electron microscopy:** Transmission and scanning microscopes, their principles of operation, observation techniques, uses ...
- **Structural characterization:** RX, electron diffraction, ...

**Keywords**

Noise, Scanning probe microscopy, optical spectroscopy, transmission electron microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, electron diffraction, X-ray diffraction

**Learning Prerequisites****Recommended courses**

Basis courses in physics

**Important concepts to start the course**

fundamentals of optics, electromagnetics, atomic and solid-state physics

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Integrate the notions of critical reading of articles
- Assess / Evaluate scientific articles, their quality and defaults
- Interpret knowledge of several specific experimental methods

**Transversal skills**

- Communicate effectively, being understood, including across different languages and cultures.
- Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Make an oral presentation.
- Summarize an article or a technical report.

### Teaching methods

- Ex cathedra lectures on specific experimental techniques
- Students' presentations of scientific articles

### Expected student activities

Participation in class is encouraged.

Students are expected to give a short presentation of a scientific article.

### Assessment methods

oral exam (100%)

### Supervision

Others                      Moodle

### Resources

#### Notes/Handbook

All is put on the Moodle site

#### Moodle Link

- <https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=15458>