



Physics Minor Overview



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Courses

Three (pseudo) compulsory topics -

1. Classical Mechanics (PH251 or PH217 or PH401, recommended - PH251)
2. Quantum Mechanics (PH252 or PH204 or PH403)
3. Statistical Mechanics (PH253 or PH410)

Not a course but essential to know if you call physics your minor - Special Relativity

Two (or more) more courses of your choice and interest!

Can also self-learn QM part 1 (books, MIT OCW etc, details unnecessary rn) and directly take QM part 2 course (PH423)

**courses are subject to minor changes thanks to "new curriculum"*

Who should consider it?

DO NOT take your first year PH courses as representative of what's to come!

1. Those who enjoyed physics in JEE and had their interest piqued to learn topics that weren't covered (like relativity, particle physics, solid state)
2. Those who want to learn how the world works and why things happen the way they do
3. Those who want to explore new techniques in Maths (eg. calculus of variations in CM, perturbations in QM, tensors/topology in STR-GR) but don't want very high rigour as in MA courses
4. Finally, those who are genuinely and ardently interested to pursue a physics research career! (like me)

Pros and Cons

Pros -

1. Huge freedom in choosing courses compared to other dept minors
2. Small classes, peers include genuinely interested students so great learning environment
3. Especially true for first course PH251 - small class size, prof gets to know you personally

Cons -

1. Slot clashes for electives - probably happens regardless of which minor?
2. Might have no dept-mates to discuss things with (as opposed to more 'popular' minors like DS)

More Remarks

If you're taking it out of interest to learn -

- Start with PH251, truly enjoyable course
- Talk to seniors, preferably from own dept, to get a good plan of minor courses
- For specific topic courses (electives) - talk to BOTH minor and EP's own seniors

If you want to pursue serious research later on -

- Start with PH251 (any alternative isn't a good idea imho)
- Just courses won't help, attend talks, get to know profs, take projects
- If interested in specific field, talk to seniors (mostly EP, but sometimes minor too) for future courses, profs to work with and how etc.



Thank You!

Feel free to contact for further info/suggestions