

Course Proposal Submitted to the Curriculum Committee of the College of Science

1. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: **PHYS 124: Experimental Explorations in Physics**

New Catalog Description: Credits: 2 (NR)

A non-mathematical course intended primarily for physics majors. Experimental studies of phenomena in mechanics, electricity and magnetism, heat, and optics, emphasizing conceptual understanding of fundamental notions in classical physics.

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 1

Hours of Lab or Studio per week: 2

Old Catalog Description: Credits: 1 (NR)

Introductory nonmathematical course intended primarily for physics majors. Experimental studies of phenomena in mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and optics. Stresses development of familiarity with methods and techniques of measurement and with data evaluation.

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 1-6

Hours of Lab or Studio per week: 2

JUSTIFICATIONS:

1. The course, originally a half-semester offering, will now be a full-semester offering (hence, the change from 1 credit to 2 credits).
2. For completeness, "heat" should be listed among the topics covered.
3. The course has been slightly redesigned to emphasize conceptual, but empirical, understanding of basic physics, rather than experimental techniques and data analysis, which, after all, are quantitative in nature.