

UF CLAS Office of Communication is interested in knowing about “interesting angles” on Feynman that might be worked into a piece to be published on theconversation.com.

Richard Feynman and his legacy near the 100th anniversary of his birth (11 May 1918)

One enduring aspect of Feynman’s legacy is “The Feynman Lectures on Physics”, now available online from Caltech.edu [1]. This past spring semester while teaching a senior undergraduate level course in quantum mechanics, I turned to “Volume III, Lecture 5: Spin One” [1]. Near the end of the course, this material presented a beautifully crafted description of “the machinery of quantum mechanics”. Specifically, the discussion of “interfering amplitudes” opened an avenue for the students to more fully appreciate the foundations of quantum theory. Of course, my perspective is the viewpoint of the instructor, so I challenged the students to describe the impact of Feynman’s materials on their own understanding of quantum theory.

– Mark W. Meisel, 2018-04-13-1900hrs

[1] “The Feynman Lectures on Physics” by R.P. Feynman, R.B. Leighton, M. Sands, online edition made available by Caltech’s Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, edited by M.A. Gottlieb and R. Pfeiffer (2013).

Potential Extra Credit Assignment worth 5 points toward the score on the Final Exam.

Hardcopy due at the start of class on Wednesday, 25 April 2018. Late submissions will not be graded. Provide one printed sheet on regular (8.5 in X 11 in) white paper with your name and the date in the upper right hand corner. The margins should be 1 in on all edges. The font should be Calibri and 12 point in size. Spacing of 1.5 lines should be used. The maximum length is restricted to the amount of text that can be placed on one side of the sheet of paper. Submissions that do not comply the suggested formatting rules will not be graded. Grammar, spelling, and syntax will be a part of the grade, so rules of formal writing should be used. For examples, any contributions possessing a dangling preposition or a contraction will receive a zero grade. Due to the nature of the task, the use of first person singular is acceptable.

The following aspect of your submission will not be considered when the assignment is graded.

At the bottom of your sheet, please state whether you AGREE or DO NOT AGREE to allow your statement to be submitted for consideration in the aforementioned piece being generated by the UF CLAS Office of Communication. Please sign your name in ink at the bottom of your page. Please understand that your contribution, if somehow selected for use, is exceedingly likely to be edited. Although every attempt will be made to attribute your comments to you, there is a chance that the citation may not appear. Finally, any submissions that do not possess this kind of statement or your signature will not be used. In other words, if there is any doubt, the NOT case will prevail.