

## Student Presentations

In addition to the written homework assignments, your course grade will be based on a short presentation made to the class on a topic that you choose (with my approval). This handout is designed to provide guidance in the selection of your topic and the preparation of your presentation.

- The talk should be on a topic related to the material in this course, interpreted in the broad sense of collective effects in condensed matter. You may choose to talk about a subject with which you are already familiar (perhaps because you have already conducted research in the area) or you may learn about a new topic (perhaps by reading one or more journal papers or review articles) and then summarize the material for the audience.
- If you have not already done so, you should discuss your proposed topic with me so that I can determine its suitability.
- Once your topic has been approved, you should prepare a 15–20 minute talk. You should plan on using either transparencies or a PC projector for your presentation. The visuals can be in PowerPoint, or it can use slides prepared using any other computer typesetting package, or you can use hand-written transparencies (provided that your writing is neat and legible).
- The primary audience for your talk is your fellow students, and you should try to explain any ideas or techniques that are likely to be unfamiliar to the audience. Where possible, please try to relate the subject of your talk to concepts discussed in the course. Also, try to include experimental data where available. Be prepared to answer questions from the audience. However, don't worry if you have to reply that you don't know the answer to some questions.
- Unless you are a very experienced speaker, you should definitely practice your talk several times to build confidence and make sure that you have the timing right.
- The talks will be given on Monday, April 25, in a session to be held in NPB 2165 starting at 1:00 p.m. All students are expected to attend the entire session.
- The presentations will be assessed fairly leniently, with greatest emphasis on effort to convey the ideas of the talk topic and to relate it to the course material, and little emphasis on how polished the presentation is.