Course Retire for PHYS 580

Proposal Reference Number : 9092
PRN Alias : 14-15#315
Version No : 3
Submitted By : Dr Guy Moore

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	Course to Retire
Program Affected?	Y
Program Change Form Submitted?	N (Simple Change) - Please remove this course from the "U3 Complementary Courses" list in the Physics Honours program and from the "U3 Complementary Courses" list in the Joint Honours Mathematics/Physics program
Subject/Course/Term	PHYS 580 • one term
Credit Weight or CEU's	3 credits.
Course Activities	• A - Lecture • R - Reading Course
Course Title	Course Title on Transcript: Introduction to String Theory Course Title on Calendar: Introduction to String Theory.
Rationale	This course has a low enrollment (around 10 students per year). It also largely duplicates the subject matter taught in a 700-level course (PHYS 741 Superstring Theory), but at an awkward level. The main background and motivation for string theory involves the theories of General Relativity and Quantum Field Theory, and a string theory course is best taught with these as prerequisites. However this is impossible in a 500-level course since these pre-requisites are 500 and 600 level courses. Therefore it has been necessary to teach PHYS 580 without the proper background and motivation. We are retiring it at the suggestion of string theorists in the department and following similar retirements at all but one North American physics departments which have taught a string theory course at this level.
Course Description	Introduction to bosonic string theory, with application to fundamental theories of particle physics. Gravity and electromagnetism in extra dimensions, dynamics of classical and quantum strings, worldsheet parametrization, conserved currents, light-cone gauge, string thermodynamics and black holes, D-branes.
Teaching Dept.	0293 : Physics
Administering Faculty/Unit	SC : Faculty of Science

Prerequisites	Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.
Corequisites	
Restrictions	• Restriction: U3 Honours students, graduate students, or permission of the instructor.
Supplementary Calendar Info	1. Winter
Consultation Reports Attached?	
Effective Term of Implementation	201501
File Attachments	No attachments have been saved yet.
To be completed by the Faculty	
For Continuing Studies Use	

Approvals Summary

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Version No.	Departmental Curriculum Committee	Departmental Meeting	Departmental Chair	Other Faculty	Curric/Academic Committee	Faculty	SCTP	Version Status
3								Approved by Departmental Chair Edited by: Josie D'Amico on: Oct 22 2014
2								Approved by Departmental Chair Edited by: Guy Moore on: Sep 25 2014
1			Approved Peter H Grutter Meeting Date: Sep 23 2014 Approval Date: Sep 25 2014 View Comments					Approved by Departmental Chair Created on: Sep 25 2014

Sender: Vojkan Jaksic <jaksic.mcgill@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: consultation, change to Joint Hon.
From: Vojkan Jaksic <jaksic@math.mcgill.ca>
In-Reply-To: <20140924175154.GA32481@hep.physics.mcgill.ca>
Date: Wed, 24 Sep 2014 14:24:58 -0400
To: Guy Moore <guymoore@hep.physics.mcgill.ca>

Dear Guy, of course, there we have no objections.

Best regards, Vojkan

On Sep 24, 2014, at 1:51 PM, Guy Moore <guymoore@hep.physics.mcgill.ca>
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wrote:

> Hi Vojkan,
>=20
> The physics department would like to retire one of the Complementary
> physics courses in our honours and joint honours math/physics program.
> Specifically we would like to retire the course
> PHYS 580 "Introduction to String Theory".
> The feeling is that after teaching the course for several years, it is
> not well enough motivated academically for us to continue offering it.
> This would reduce by 1 the number of courses available in the
> complementary courses list. [Note that there have actually been =
several
> additions to the list in the last few years, so I don't feel like the
> students are running out of options.]
>=20
> I would like to consult with the Math department, since the course is
> part of a joint program. Are there any objections from Mathematics?
>=20
> thanks
> guy
> --=20
> Guy D. Moore
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