Section 1. Course Title and Description

Prefix & No.  Course Title:  Credits:
PHYS 109  First Year Seminar  2 cr

Course Description:
First-year seminar course designed to introduce students to academic success strategies including the development of critical thinking and study skills, identification of campus resources, guidance in academic planning and engagement, time management and goal setting. Students will also investigate wellness topics, contemporary issues, diversity, and the land-grant mission of SDSU. In addition, this course is designed to expose students to the discipline-specific careers and their role in society.
Prerequisites: None

Section 2. Review of Course

Will this be a common or unique course? (select the appropriate option below)

X  This course will be a unique course. (Go to Section 3.)

Section 3. Other Course Information

1. Are there instructional staffing impacts?

X  No, schedule management.  Explain: No schedule management impact as we currently have adequate staff for this course in physics.  The person currently teaching PHYS 292 will be used for this course.  PHYS292 is an x9x series course and therefore won’t be deleted.

2. Existing program in which course will be offered:  Physics

3. Proposed instructional method:  R-Lecture

   (may be found at http://www.sdbor.edu/administration/academics/aac/guidelines.htm )

   Provide a brief justification:  The traditional seminar format combines lecture to initiate student engagement and discourse.  Topics covered in the course will stimulate student input, in both oral and written format.
4. Proposed primary delivery: 001 – face to face, Term Based Instruction  
(may be found at http://www.sdbor.edu/administration/academics/aac/guidelines.htm)

5. Term in which change will be effective: Fall 2012

6. Can this course be repeated for additional credit?
   ______ Yes, total credit limit: ________ ________ X No.

7. Will the grade for this course be limited to S/U (pass/fail)? ______ Yes ______ X No

8. Will section enrollments be capped?
   ______ X Yes, maximum per section 48 ________ ______ No

9. Will this course be equated (i.e. considered the same course for degree completion) with any
   other unique or common course in the course database?
   ______ X Yes ______ No

   If yes, indicate the course(s) to which it will be equated. CHEM 109

10. Is this prefix already approved for your university?
    ______ X Yes ______ No

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Section 4. To be completed by Academic Affairs

1. University department code: SPHYS

2. Proposed CIP code: 04.0101

   Is this a new CIP code for this university? ______ X Yes ______ No
NEW COURSE REQUEST
Supporting Justification for On-Campus Review

Joel Rauber
Request Originator
Signature
Date

Joel Rauber
Department Chair
Signature
Date

David Hilderbrand
School/College Dean
Signature
Date

1. Provide specific reasons for the proposal of this course and explain how the changes enhance the curriculum.

In an attempt to enhance retention of first-year university students, SDSU has redesigned institutional goal requirement #1 to include courses intended to create an esprit de corps surrounding particular topics or majors. The proposed course is in response to the new IGR#1. CHEM 109 and its cross-listing PHYS 109 will provide a foundation for introducing physics, chemistry and biochemistry majors to the physical sciences and their respective departments, its requirements and expectations, and its people and goals. The course also provides an introduction to the disciplines, the options for careers in them, as well as elementary training on research, ethics, and technical writing.

2. Note whether this course is:  X Required  ______ Elective

3. In addition to the major/program in which this course is offered, what other majors/programs will be affected by this course?

Chemistry. This is intended to be a team taught cross-listed course that will serve the needs of students in the chemistry and physics departments and possibly other students interested in the physical sciences.

4. If this will be a dual listed course, indicate how the distinction between the two levels will be made.

N/A

5. Desired section size  40 students

6. Provide qualifications of faculty who will teach this course. List name(s), rank(s), and degree(s).

The course will be coordinated by the freshman advisor in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and the freshmen advisor in the Department of Physics; they will be the instructors of note. However, the faculty as a whole in both departments will participate in the course delivery. All faculty in the chemistry department have earned the terminal degree in their field and all faculty in the physics department have either earned the terminal degree in their field or have advanced degrees along with years of experience in the field making them well qualified to teach this course.

7. Note whether adequate facilities are available and list any special equipment that will be needed for the course.

N/A

8. Note whether adequate library and media support are available for the course. Yes.

9. Will the new course duplicate courses currently being offered on this campus?

Yes  X  No

COURSE FORM #5
Updated 03/2007
10. If this course may be offered for variable credit, explain how the amount of credit at each offering is to be determined.

The course will not be offered for variable credit.

11. Add any additional comments that will aid in the evaluation of this request.

CHEM109 and PHYS109 will be cross-listed with each other. Physics majors will sign up for the course as PHYS109. Chemistry and Biochemistry majors will sign up for the course as CHEM109 and the course will be required in their respective majors. The intent is for this to be a combined course seminar course for the physical sciences that serves the combined and individual needs of the respective departments. We expect the students in the course to benefit significantly from the interdisciplinary nature of the seminar.