

# PHYS404: “Introduction to Statistical Thermodynamics” Fall 2016

- Description: Introduction to basic concepts in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics (3 credits).
- Prerequisites: PHYS273 Waves. Completion of an introductory quantum mechanics course such as PHYS401 is **strongly advised**.
- Instructor: Prof. Ian Appelbaum, Physical Sciences Complex, Rm 2154.  
Phone: x5-0890 / e-mail: [appelbaum@physics.umd.edu](mailto:appelbaum@physics.umd.edu)  
Please arrange a meeting time via email to discuss grades or other personal situations. Questions about the course material should be directed to the asynchronous Q&A board on the course webpage at <https://piazzza.com/umd/fall2016/phys404>.
- TA: TBA
- Course Web Site: All course materials, including this syllabus, homework assignments, solutions, lecture notes, etc. will be posted to the Piazza page.
- Schedule: Three meetings weekly in PHY 1402:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday ..... 9:00am- 9:50am
- Recommended Text: Kittel and Kroemer, Thermal Physics, 2nd edition. The lectures will not follow the book verbatim, so if you prefer any of the many other statistical mechanics texts available, feel free to use them. I also recommend F. Reif, Fundamentals of Statistical and Thermal Physics.
- Homework: Homework is assigned approximately every week via the Piazza page and will be due in class before lecture begins. Late homework will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.
- Grading: Your course (letter) grade is determined - at the END of the semester - by your numerical scores on homeworks (30%), one midterm (30%), and one final (40%).
- Dropping the Course: The last day to drop the course is Nov. 7.
- A Special Request: Please do not use your cellphones during lecture.