

Physics of the Dark – Book Report

Goals:

The goal of the book report is to explore one or more aspects of the material in the course. Each book report is expected to have at a minimum a clear synopsis of the subject matter of the book. The final book report will be judged fundamentally on your ability to demonstrate you've read the book and understand the physics contained.

A good book report will go a little beyond this. A secondary motivation for the book report is to allow you to 'go beyond the numbers' and take stock of the material: in short, to think. You may choose to elaborate on the main themes expressed in the book. What are the philosophical implications of the book's discussion? What are the political or social implications of the material? Does the material relate in some way to another subject of interest, say art? Are there religious implications to the material? Are there economic or business impacts? What is the nature of physics, as revealed in the book? What is the nature of science itself, when considering the issues raised in the book? One caution, large amounts of opinionated judgment are not going to serve the report's purpose. However, where implications are evident, feel free to note them. Physics exists within the wider world of human endeavor.

Format: 15 pages expected, 10 pages minimum, double spaced, 12pt (or smaller) type.

Mid-term Draft: The mid-term draft (due Oct. 7) is not graded, although if it is late, the final grade will be reduced by 10%. The mid-term draft is expected to be roughly half of the final report over roughly the first half of the book's material. After I've read these (about 2 weeks), we will schedule individual discussions for 20 minutes to discuss your report. You will receive comments on grammar and writing clarity. You will also receive comments on how well you demonstrate your understanding of the material in the book.