

Department of Physics and Astronomy Colloquium Series

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:30pm in PSE 317

Speaker: Ania Harlick

Institution: University of Toronto

Title: Exploration of transparency in evaluation in undergraduate courses

Abstract: Studies show that transparent teaching methods – sharing information about purpose and motivation behind assignments and providing precise rubrics for them – have impact on students' learning that reaches beyond the completion of these specific tasks. Implementation of this approach requires intentional practices and raises questions about oversimplification of the learning process. At the same time, clarity opens space for engagement and often leads to more meaningful work.

Development of reliable tools for evaluating student work is never trivial but may present additional challenges in this framework. In my talk I want to discuss practices I have used to develop and implement rubrics to evaluate a variety of learning activities, from problems solved in introductory service courses, through laboratory work, to upper-level creative projects.