Confirmation that this version of the module specification has been approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee:

………11th March 2015………………………………………….

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

1. Title of the module

*PH520 Physics Laboratory A*

1. School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

*School of Physical Sciences*

1. Start date of the module

*Existing module, next running in 2015-16*

1. The number of students expected to take the module

*15*

1. Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Schools and Faculties regarding the withdrawal

*None*

1. The level of the module (e.g. Certificate [C], Intermediate [I], Honours [H] or Postgraduate [M])

*I*

1. The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

*15 (7.5 ECTS)*

1. Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

*Term 1*

1. Prerequisite and co-requisite modules

*None*

1. The programmes of study to which the module contributes

*Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics (BSc, MPhys, MPhys with Year Abroad)*

*This is not available as a wild module*

1. The intended subject specific learning outcomes
   1. *An ability to identify relevant principles and laws when dealing with problems, and to make approximations necessary to obtain solutions. (B1)*
   2. *An ability to execute and analyse critically the results of an experiment or investigation and draw valid conclusions. To evaluate the level of uncertainty in these results and compare them with expected outcomes, theoretical predictions or with published data; thereby to evaluate the significance of their results in this context. (B3)*
   3. *An ability to use mathematical techniques and analysis to model physical behaviour. (B4)*
   4. *Competent use of appropriate C&IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of appropriate information. (C1)*
   5. *An ability to present and interpret information graphically. (C2)*
   6. *An ability to communicate scientific information, in particular to produce clear and accurate scientific reports. (C3)*
   7. *A familiarity with laboratory apparatus and techniques, including relevant aspects of Health & Safety. (C4)*
   8. *The systematic and reliable recording of experimental data. (C5)*
   9. *An ability to make use of appropriate texts, research-based materials or other learning resources as part of managing their own learning. (C6)*
2. The intended generic learning outcomes
   1. *Problem-solving skills, in the context of both problems with well-defined solutions and open-ended problems; an ability to formulate problems in precise terms and to identify key issues, and the confidence to try different approaches in order to make progress on challenging problems. Numeracy is subsumed within this area. (D1)*
   2. *Investigative skills in the context of independent investigation including the use of textbooks and other available literature, databases, and the interaction with colleagues to extract important information. (D2)*
   3. *Communication skills in the area of dealing with surprising ideas and difficult concepts, including listening carefully, reading demanding texts and presenting complex information in a clear and concise manner. C&IT skills are an important element to this. (D3)*
   4. *Analytical skills – associated with the need to pay attention to detail and to develop an ability to manipulate precise and intricate ideas, to construct logical arguments and to use technical language correctly. (D4)*
   5. *Personal skills – the ability to work independently, to use initiative, to organise oneself to meet deadlines and to interact constructively with other people. (D5)*
3. A synopsis of the curriculum

*SYLLABUS:  
Most practicing physicists at some point will be required to perform experiments and take measurements. This module, through a series of experiments, seeks to allow students to become familiar with some more complex apparatus and give them the opportunity to learn the art of accurate recording and analysis of data. This data has to be put in the context of the theoretical background and an estimate of the accuracy made. Keeping of an accurate, intelligible laboratory notebook is most important. Three 3 week experiments are performed. The remaining period is allocated to some additional activities to develop communication skills.*

1. Indicative Reading List

*Experimental Methods; Kirkup, L. (1994)*

*An Introduction to Error Analysis; Taylor, J. (1997)*

1. Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended module learning outcomes

*Contact hours: laboratory sessions (27 hours), communication skills session (1 hour)*

*This module is expected to occupy 150 total study hours, including the aforementioned contact hours.*

*Achievement of learning outcomes:*

* *Laboratory sessions and self-study (11.1-11.9, 12.1-12.5)*
* *Communications session (12.3)*

1. Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended module learning outcomes

*Coursework 100% including laboratory reports and, communications exercise.*

*The above assessments test students’ knowledge and understanding of laws and principles (11.1, 12.4), application of techniques to model behaviour and solve problems (11.3-11.5, 11.7, 12.1) and the ability to record, analyse and communicate scientific data and information effectively (11.2, 11.5, 11.6, 11.8, 12.3, 12.4). Students will need to manage their own studies using reference materials (11.9, 12.2-12.5)*

1. Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space

*None*

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current disability equality legislation, and supports students with a declared disability or special educational need in its teaching. Within this module we will make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary, including additional or substitute materials, teaching modes or assessment methods for students who have declared and discussed their learning support needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the University’s disability/dyslexia support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.
2. Campus where module will be delivered:

*Canterbury.*