

Abstract Submitted
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What should be our approach to understanding the universe?

HUI-YIING CHANG, Texas State University — Besides understanding the concepts of physics and learning to apply them to different contexts, it is most crucial that students examine the basis of their beliefs in these theories. It becomes necessary, then, to expand our conception considerably beyond the scope of the physics textbook. This process is possibly effectuated by gaining a representative understanding of the liberal arts through study of several areas, and self-expression of one's convictions. Respecting of differences is important, as well as the expectation that proposing of new ideas is often accompanied by conflict and disequilibrium within individuals and the community. In this session, we will discuss the approaches of significant ancient scientists and philosophers to understanding the universe, and trace the development to modern conventionally accepted theories. A higher goal of physics education is to produce "reforming physicists" that unravel the truth for the betterment of society.

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