

T2_30 COURSEWARE THE HISTORY OF PHYSICS

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In the context of a course "Hypermedia Supported Education" students are expected to develop a hypermedia e-learning WWW application or Web courseware The History of Physics (in Croatian), with various multimedia elements, online tests and communication tools. The course was designed for senior students at the Physics and Information Science undergraduate program at the University of Rijeka, Croatia. When developing the courseware, the students should have applied the acquired knowledge of good Web and instructional design. The content, graphical and instructional design of the courseware were prepared in a way for the courseware to suit all interested pupils, students and teachers of Physics. The content of the lessons follows the development of Physics through time and its fields..The time sequence is organized into six periods: Antiquity, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Modern Age, 19th/20th century and 21st century. The fields of Physics include the Philosophy of Nature, Mechanics, Astronomy, Optics, Heat, Electricity, Magnetism, Structure of Matter and some areas of Modern Physics. The courseware includes a time axis with the most important historical events, a dictionary, a help function, a clickable application map, references and links, additional sources (such as student PowerPoint presentations prepared for the course The History of Physics), communication via Web forms, and multimedia elements like graphics, sound, and video. At the end of each chapter about a certain historical period, there is a quiz with multiple-choice questions. Special attention has been given to the organization of the courseware and navigational techniques making it easy for users to navigate through the hypermedia courseware. As an outcome of a collaborative work of a group of students and their teachers, this courseware serves as an example of both good practice and project teaching. From a point of view of a user, its value is evident in the need for hypermedia courseware in smaller non-English speaking countries to be organized in one's own native language.