Wigner functions offer an approach to quantum mechanics that is equivalent to the usual formulation via Schrödinger equation. Although equivalent, the Wigner approach gives insight and generalizations not easily seen in the standard presentations. I will present an introduction to Wigner functions for students with modest backgrounds in modern physics. This will be followed by a discussion of the claimed “insights” and how the classical world can be recovered from the quantum world.

William Case, Ph.D.
Physics Department, Grinnell College