

Physical Science - PSCI 101

Hunter R. Sims, PhD

hunter.sims@fmarion.edu

simsphysics.com/teaching

(843) 661-1445

MWF 8:30 - 9:20 AM LSF L102

Office Hours: TWR 1:00 - 2:00 PM in LSF L103I (or by appointment)

Textbook (**required**): *An Introduction to Physical Science, 14th Edition*, James Shipman, Jerry D. Wilson, Charles A. Higgins, Omar Torres, ISBN: 9781305259812 (e-book rentals are available)

Rule 0.

No one is born knowing how to do physics or math. If you are struggling, please speak with me as soon as possible or accept help when it is offered.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, the student will

- Gain an appreciation of how science investigates and reveals the natural world
- Be able to describe the underlying physical principles that determine the behavior of objects in the real world
- Be able to convert a physical scenario into a problem that can be solved mathematically
- Gain an ability to understand and interpret scientific claims

Questions answered (tentative)

What is science?

How can we know a scientific claim is true?

What is measurement?

What laws and principles determine the motion of objects?

What is energy and what forms can it take?

What is light and how does it behave?

What is matter made of?

Evaluation

The final grade will be broken down in the following way

- Grade from Lab Course: 25%
- Participation: 5%
- Reading Checks: +5%
- Quizzes: 5%
- Mid-term 1: 20%
- Mid-term 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

Attendance of all class sessions is expected and will be factored into the participation portion of the grade. Absences need not be documented, but all students are responsible for all material covered and all assignments regardless of attendance. Medical or other legitimate documented emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and I will do my best to work with you to make up missed material. Unless prior approval is obtained, no make-up quizzes or tests will be given.

The reading quizzes are small comprehension checks given at the start of each class period.

These quizzes will add up to 5 points to your final grade.

Academic Integrity

All work must be the sole product of each student's brain and effort (in other words, all cheating or plagiarism will be reported and handled as detailed in the Student Handbook). For my part, I will not discriminate against any student for any reason and will make any reasonable accommodations necessary to meet a student's needs. No discriminatory or hostile behavior toward fellow students will be tolerated.