

Physical Science - PSCI 101

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MWF 9:30 - 10:20 AM LSF L104

Office: LSF L103H

Office Hours: By appointment, preferably via Zoom/Discord/Slack/Hangouts/Teams/Etc. I will definitely be available MTH 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM..

Required Materials.

An Introduction to Physical Science, 14th Edition, James Shipman, Jerry D. Wilson, Charles A. Higgins, Omar Torres, ISBN: 9781305079120 (e-book rentals are available)

A calculator (any kind, but you may not use your phone)

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

Zoom Info

Class Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92481557262>

“Office” Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95277166362>

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 are electricity and magnetism?

What is sound and how does it travel?

What is matter made of?

Attendance

While the class meets online, all students are expected to attend the synchronous Zoom sessions. However, they will also be recorded and posted to Blackboard. The course will shift to a hybrid instructional model once in-person classes commence. The class will be split into three approximately equal groups. Each group will attend class in person once per week (M, W, or F), and each session will be recorded for the benefit of the other two groups. If possible, I will try to broadcast the in-class sessions via Zoom to allow (optional) virtual attendance.

Evaluation

The final grade will be broken down in the following way

- Grade from Lab Course: 20%
- Participation: 5%
- Quizzes: 5%
- Reading Checks: 5%
- Mid-term 1: 20%
- Mid-term 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Wild Card: 5% to whichever is best among exams or quiz average

All quizzes and tests will be administered via Blackboard. **Failing the lab will result in failing the course.**

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). Online work provides ample opportunity for dishonesty, but students are still required to display integrity in their work. 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 upon request. No discriminatory or hostile behavior toward fellow students will be tolerated. If you experience or witness discriminatory, abusive, or other unwanted behavior, you should contact me, the Title IX Coordinator, or other appropriate authorities.