

# Physical Science - PSCI 101

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Office Hours: MR 1:00 - 2:00 PM (or by appointment)

Textbook (**recommended**): *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 are electricity and magnetism?

What is sound and how does it travel?

What is matter made of?

## Evaluation

The final grade will be broken down in the following way

- Grade from Lab Course: 20%
- Participation: 10%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Mid-term 1: 20%
- Mid-term 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Attendance of all class sessions is expected and will be factored into the participation portion of the grade. I maintain an interactive classroom, and attendance will significantly improve your understanding of the course as well as your grade. Absences do not need to 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 generally only if I received advance notification**), and I will do my best to work with you to make up missed material in these circumstances.

## 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. If you experience or witness discriminatory, abusive, or other unwanted behavior, you should contact me, the Title IX Coordinator, and/or campus police, as appropriate.