

Physical Science Laboratory Fall 2009

Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Instructor Name: Professor Innocent Aluka
Office Location: New Science Bldg, RM 330J
Office Phone: 936-261-3139
Fax: 936-261-3149
Email Address: ijaluka@pvamu.edu
Snail Mail Address: P.O. Box 519
Mail Stop 2230
P.V. Tx 77446

Office Hours: TR 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Course Location: New Science Bldg
Class Meeting Days and Time: M 2:00 – 3:50 p.m., Room 303
W 2:00 – 3:50 p.m., Room 303

Course Abbreviation and Number: PHSC 1121

Catalogue Description: Physical science laboratory course designed to enhance knowledge of basic principles of physical science and physical processes in our environment. Selected topics on astronomy, meteorology and geology will be emphasized with attention directed to current applications and discoveries.

Co-requisite: PHSC 1123

Required Text: Handouts

Access to Learning Resources: PVAMU Library:

phone: (936) 261-1500

web: <http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/>

University Bookstore:

phone: (936) 261-1990

web: <http://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

Course Goals or Overview:

1. To provide students hands-on experience and exposure to basic laws/principles of basic physical science.
2. To improve students laboratory skills such as experimental approaches, procedures and safety precautions and knowledge of basic laboratory apparatus.

Course Objectives: Students completing this course will compare favorably in their knowledge and hands-on experience with physical science students nationally who completed a similar course.

Course Evaluation Methods:

This course will use the following instruments to determine student grades.

There are two exams and 9 laboratory assignments. Each exam is worth 20 points and lab assignments are worth 60 points.

Grade Dtermination:

90 – 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

COURSE POLICIES:

The laboratories and laboratory reports will be carried out in groups of 5 – 6. The laboratory report will be due the following week after the laboratory is carried out. Each group will hand in a separate laboratory report for each laboratory. Everyone within a laboratory group will receive the same grade for the laboratory based on that group's laboratory report. In addition, every member of each group will be expected to take at least one turn as "editor-in chief" in preparing that group's weekly laboratory report.

Attendance is mandatory and a roll will be taken during each class. No grade is awarded for laboratory periods where students do not have a valid university approved written excuse for missing class. Students having an excused absence can make up only missed laboratory. Students should insure that they have signed each week's attendance list in order to get credit for that week's laboratory. Do not sign some else's name.

Turn off all cell phones. Each time a cell phone is seen either in your hands or on your desk, five points will be deducted from your final number grade. Also each time your cell phone rings, ten points will be deducted from your final number grade.

This lab class starts at 2:00 p.m. and ends at 3:50 p.m.

Any class period student(s) come in five minutes late, that is after 2:05 p.m., 5 points will be deducted from the final number grade. Any excuses will be in writing and verifiable.

Any class period student(s) leave before 3:45 p.m., unless otherwise instructed, 10 points will be deducted from the final number grade.

Every student is expected to **ACTIVELY** participate in carrying out each laboratory assignment observable by the Professor or lab assistant.

Any **INACTIVE** student(s) will receive a grade of zero in that particular laboratory assignment.

Typed names of group members on a laboratory assignment is not acceptable. Each group member is expected to hand-write the names. All laboratory assignments with typed names of group members will not be graded and a grade of zero will be assigned to the violating group.

All laboratory reports must be on my classroom desk on or before 2:00 p.m. on the due date. Violators will receive zero grades.

Course Procedures

Laboratory #	Laboratory Topic
	No laboratory 1 st week
1	Measurements
2	Volcanoes/Earthquake
3	Topographic Map I
4	Topographic Map II
5	Weather Forecasting/Hurricanes and Chill factors
6	Makeup Labs
7	Lab. Exam #1
8	Minerals
9	Igneous Rocks
10	Sedimentary Rocks
11	Metamorphic Rocks
12	Makeup Labs
13	Lab. Exam #2

THIS SCHEDULE IS VARIABLE

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies. Students are responsible for providing the blue scantrons for examinations and quizzes.

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes

plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

