

Physical Science One

Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

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Office Hours: TR 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Course Location: New Science Bldg
Class Meeting Days and Time: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Room 101
MW 4:00 - 5:20 p.m. Room A104
TR 9:30 – 10:50 a.m. Room A103

Course Abbreviation and Number: PHSC 1123

Catalogue Description: A course designed for survey and introduction of basic principles of physical science and physical processes in our environment, with focus on current discoveries in geology, astronomy and meteorology. Topics such as solar system and other systems in the universe, sunspots, life and death of stars, galaxies including the Milky Way Galaxy, pulsars and quasars will be studied.

Co-requisite: PHSC 1121

Required Text: Physical Science, 8th Ed; Author: Bill W. Tillery; Publisher: McGraw Hill; ISBN: 978-0-07-340452-3 (Paper Back)

Recommended Text: Any physical Science Textbook

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: This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of physical science and physical processes in our environment. The following branches of physical science will be emphasized: Geology, Astronomy, and Meteorology.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn different professions of geology
2. Students will learn how earthquakes are formed, and why they are generally formed in specific locations of the Earth.
3. Students will learn why the lithospheric plates move.
4. Students will locate seismic belts of the world.
5. Students will learn the methods for determining the ages of events that occurred during geologic time.
6. Students will learn the components of the our solar system and the universe.
7. Students will compare our solar system with other solar systems in the universe.
8. Students will learn different minerals and rocks and why mountains are not located at random on the surface of the Earth.
9. Students will learn how stars are formed and

- classified.
10. Students will learn why planets always stay in their orbits and why only one side of the Moon faces us all the time.
 11. Students will learn how crude oil is formed and trapping mechanism of crude oil.
 12. Students will learn the methods for discovering crude oil.
 13. Students will learn the components of crude oil and uses.
 14. Students will learn the Earth's atmosphere and weather.
 15. Students will be able to categorize hurricanes.

Course Evaluation Methods:

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

There are four examinations in this class; two examinations during the first half of the semester and two more examinations during the second half of the semester. Each exam is worth **20 points** and a total of **80 points** of your final grade.

The remaining **20 points** of your final grade will come from homework and web assignments, quizzes, classroom discussions and one term paper.

Grade Dtermination:

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

COURSE POLICIES:

This course uses audio-visual and inquiry based format. It is expected that you will need to spend at least two hours studying outside the class for each hour spent in class. That means you should plan to devote a minimum of six hours per week for this class. This is a business intensive class, so be prepared to work. My objective is to help you succeed.

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. Each time your cell phone rings, ten points will be deducted from your final number grade.

Course Procedures

Topic	Note
Definition of Geology and Geology profession	
Earthquakes and Earth's Interior	
Earthquakes and Earth's Interior continued	
Plate Tectonics and Seafloor Spreading	
Geologic Time	
Geologic Time Continued	Exam #1
The Universe	
The Universe Continued	
The Solar System	
The Solar System Continued	Exam #2
Minerals	
Minerals Continued	
Rocks	
Rocks Continued	Exam #3
Atmosphere, Composition and Layers, Weather and Climate	
Atmosphere, Composition and Layers, Weather and Climate cont'd	
Study Days	
Final Exam Period	Exam #4
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.

