

Physical Science I

PSC 1123 Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Storr
Text: *Physical Science*, 8th ed., Bill Tillery, ISBN 978-0-07-304992-2
Office: 330H New Science Building
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Classroom: New Classroom Building, Room A103
Course Website: <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/2812.asp>
Homework Website: <https://quest.cns.utexas.edu/student>
Course ID HW: 37516

Time	Office Hours
M W F 11:00am – 11:50am	MWF 10 – 11; MW 12 – 2; other days by appointment

NOTE

The subject matter in the lectures will follow the text; however minor, additional relevant material may be presented from information not found in the text.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

3 Credit semester hours. The goal of this course is to teach the Physical Sciences by active participation and inquiry. Students will primarily be introduced and instructed in the areas of Astronomy and Earth Science.

COURSE POLICIES

This course will use several instructional format to increase students understanding and retention of subject matter. Selected materials in each chapter will be covered during the lectures. Students should read the entire assigned chapters prior to class as lectures alone are insufficient for material proficiency. Lecture will be used to amplify and explain the materials found in the textbook. Homework problems will be assigned during the entire semester for each chapter covered and will be done online via the website hw.utexas.edu. Students are also required to keep a homework journal as part of the homework process. The journal is comprised of all **completed** projects/problems in a separate notebook/folder. This will be collected at announced times during the semester. Any student unable to solve a particular assigned problem(s) should participate in help sessions- recitation & tutorial. Pop quizzes may be given occasionally on covered materials and will be counted as extra credit. It is expected that you will need to spend at least two hours studying outside the class for each hour spent in class (**minimum of 6 total hours per week**).

You should also be currently enrolled in PSC-1121 laboratory.

COURSE OUTCOMES

This course is designed to cater to students with limited science background and experience. Following its completion students will:

1. Have a fundamental understanding of the Physical World in which they live.
2. Be able to relate conceptually to the Earth and the Universe at large.
3. Be able to comfortably communicate this understanding to others with the same or less science background.
4. Be able to appreciate on a larger level basic science as espoused in newspapers and other media designed for the masses.
5. Demonstrate proficiency and mastery of course content presented.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each week a set of homework questions or project shall be assigned from the text, which will assist in determining your competency of the information presented. Assignments are due on specified due dates and times.
2. Exams will be periodically given following the completion of every even chapter. There will be a comprehensive final exam given at semester's end.
3. Makeup exams and missed homework are allowed for officially excused absences. The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in homework on time are illnesses requiring medical care, **required** University activities or a personal emergency of a **serious nature**. To be excused without penalty, you must contact me as soon as possible and provide **documentation** or have received **prior permission**. In such cases only a week is allowed for a makeup. Work conflicts, computer or car problems, forgetting or oversleeping are not valid excuses. Arrangements can be made **ONLY** if you have contacted me before the exams are returned (generally the next class period). In the remote cases whereby late work is allowed, the maximum allowed score is 70% of the total.
4. Please turn off (set to vibrate) all cell phones prior to lecture beginning. Baseball caps are not to be worn during the lecture.
5. If you miss class contact a peer for information missed. My notes are available upon request.
6. **Academic Dishonesty/Cheating:** You are responsible to know the elements of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, cheating etc., as set forth in PVAMU *Student Handbook*. PVAMU allows no form of collaboration in the preparation of papers or in the taking of quizzes or exams. Work on paper, quizzes, and exams must be totally your own. You should neither request nor give help. The penalty for violating the PVAMU Academic Honor Code in this class is a score of zero for the quiz, exam, or paper in which the violation occurs.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN Phys 1123

1. Attend **EVERY** class.
2. **READ** the assigned chapter **BEFORE** class.
3. Do NOT wait until the day before the exam to study. Review notes DAILY.
4. Check with your instructor as soon as possible if you do not understand a concept.
5. Plan TWO (2) hours, THREE times a week to provide sufficient study time to cover reading, homework, and review.
6. **Form a Study Group. Your study group can provide information that you might miss in class and provide a forum for questions and regular review of class material.**

STUDY GROUP MEMBERS:

NAME: _____	NAME: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____

GRADING SCHEME

Assignment	Points	Grade	Scale (% of total points)
Final	20	A	90 – 100
Exams	40	B	80 – 89.99
Homework	20	C	70 – 79.99
Project	10	D	60 – 69.99
Quizzes	10	F	Below 60
Total	100 points		

Keep records of all quizzes, exams & homework to verify recorded grades.

I DO NOT CURVE!!!

Semester Schedule (subject to change)

Week (Starting on)	Topic	Note
1 (Aug. 25)	Ch. 17: Introduction & Rocks and Minerals	
2 (Sep. 1)b	Ch. 17: Introduction & Rocks and Minerals	
3 (Sep. 8)	Ch. 18: Plate Tectonics	
4 (Sep. 15)	Ch. 18: Plate Tectonics	
5 (Sep. 22)	Ch. 19: Building Earth's Surface	Exam # 1
6 (Sep. 29)	Ch. 19: Building Earth's Surface	
7 (Oct. 6)	Ch. 20: Shaping Earth's Surface	
8 (Oct. 13)	Ch. 20: Shaping Earth's Surface	
9 (Oct. 20)	Ch. 14 The Universe:	Exam # 2
10 (Oct. 27)	Ch. 14 The Universe:	
11 (Nov. 3)	Ch. 15 The Solar System	Exam #3
12 (Nov. 10)	Ch. 15 The Solar System	
13 (Nov. 17)	Ch. 16 Earth in Space	Exam # 4
14 (Nov. 24)	THANKSGIVING	
15 (Dec. 1)	REVIEW, STUDY & FINALS PERIOD	
16 (Dec. 3)	FINALS EXAMINATION PERIOD	FINAL EXAM

HOMWORK WEBSITE INSTRUCTIONS

YOUR COURSE ID# is 37516

Registration is a two step process. First you register on the HW server, then for your course.

To Register on the Homework Server

1. Go to <https://quest.cns.utexas.edu/student>
2. Click the link which says, "Get Started"
3. Click the link which says, "*I need a UT EID*"
4. On the left click the link, "*Get a UT EID*"
5. Click Continue
6. Select **no** for **all** the questions asked and select continue
7. Answer the questions, only questions with an asterisk are required, please enter a valid email address. Click continue
8. **IF** it says your EID may already exist, **DO NOT CLAIM IT!** Click, **I DONT SEE MY UT EID.**
9. Answer the reset questions, click continue
10. Create a password with hints, select continue
11. Confirm information and select, **CREATE MY UTEID.**
12. Record your UTEID

To Register for your Course

1. Log on to <https://quest.cns.utexas.edu/student> using your new UTEID and password
2. click the link, **Register** as a student
3. Enter the 5 digit course ID # you received.
4. Enter your last name, first name
5. Enter your UTEID (**NOT YOUR SSN!!**), click OK
6. Click OK **ONCE** and wait until confirmation of registration
7. Now when you log in, you will see your course ID# and your instructor's name.