

**Course Title: Physical Science I**

**Course Prefix: PHSC**

**Course No.: 1123**

**Section No.: P08**

**Department of | Physics**

**College of | Arts and Sciences**

**Instructor Name:** Brian Cudnik  
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**Office Hours:** | Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm – 2:00pm

**Virtual Office Hours:** |

**Course Location:** | E.E. O'Banion Science Building, Room 103

**Class Meeting Days & Times:** | Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am – 10:50am

**Catalog Description:** | Credit 3 semester hours. Emphasizes insight into basic physical science principles and practices. Topics include physics, chemistry, and earth science aspect dealing with the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere.

**Prerequisites:** | None

**Co-requisites:** | PHSC 1121

**Required Text:** | Physical Science 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. By Bill W. Tillery

**Recommended Text/Readings:** | Contemporary Physical Science by Aluka; the Physical Universe by Krauskopf & Beiser

**Access to Learning Resources:** | PVAMU Library:  
phone: (936) 261-1500;  
web: <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/3585.asp>  
University Bookstore:  
phone: (936) 261-1990;  
web: <https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

**Course Goals or Overview:**

The goal of this course is to give the student a broad-based introduction to several areas of the physical sciences, in particular basic physics, earth science, geology, and astronomy.

**Course Outcomes/Objectives**

**At the end of this course, the student will...**

		Core Curriculum Objective
1	... demonstrate basic knowledge of key concepts in the physical sciences	Critical Thinking Skills
2	... demonstrate basic knowledge of the key physical sciences: physics, geology, astronomy, earth science and how these are interrelated.	Critical Thinking Skills
3	... acquire the ability to solve word problems associated with standard concepts.	Empirical & Quantitative Skills
4	... develop the ability to research for a term paper and write the paper that follows conventions of academic honesty	Personal Responsibility
5	... prepare and present short project reports on several topics in the physical sciences	Communication skills
6		

## Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material. These will be in the form of two smaller exams, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. The smaller exams will consist of multiple choice, while the midterm and finals will include an essay component in addition to the multiple choice questions.

**Exercises** – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material. Each chapter discussed in class will have one exercise assigned and these are to be completed individually

**Projects** – Students will also be assigned individual project reports in the form of five short papers (1 to 2 pages) over the course of the semester. These are based on applications in physical sciences as we experience them in our daily lives. This work is also expected to be accomplished as specified.

**Term Paper** – A term paper (4 to 5 pages) will be assigned in addition to the projects listed above.

**Class Participation** – daily attendance and participation in class discussions

### Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Assignments / Exercises	10 assignments at 10 points each	100
Papers / Project Reports	5 papers at 10 points each	50
Term Paper	1 paper at 50 points	50
Exams	2 exams at 50 points each	100
Mid Term Exam	100 points	100
Class Participation/ Discussion	25 points	25
Final Exam	200 points	200
<b>Total:</b>		<b>625</b>

#### Grade Determination:

A = 550 – 625pts;

B = 475 – 549pts;

C = 400 – 474pts;

D = 300 – 399pts;

F = 299pts or below

## Course Procedures

### Submission of Assignments:

Assignments may be submitted electronically (via e-mail or eCourses) or as hard copy.

### Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

### Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

## Professional Organizations and Journals

Not applicable

## References

Not applicable

## Semester Calendar

<b>Week One:</b> Topic	Physical Science and Branches of Science
Chapter (s):	1
Assignment (s):	Note: Assignments will be distributed in class to accompany each chapter discussed.
<b>Week Two:</b> Topic	Motion / Dynamics
Chapter (s):	2
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Three:</b> Topic	Energy
Chapter (s):	3
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Four:</b> Topic	Heat
Chapter (s):	4
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Five:</b> Topic	Light
Chapter (s):	7
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Six:</b> Topic	Rocks and Minerals, Plate Tectonics
Chapter (s):	17
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Seven:</b> Topic	Earth's Place in Space
Chapter (s):	18
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Eight:</b> Topic	Building Earth's Surface
Chapter (s):	19
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Nine:</b> Topic	Shaping Earth's Surface
Chapter (s):	20
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week 10:</b> Topic	Earth in Space
Chapter (s):	16
<b>Week Eleven:</b> Topic	Solar System
Chapter (s):	15
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Twelve:</b> Topic	The Universe
Chapter (s):	14
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Thirteen:</b> Topic	The Universe, continued
Chapter (s):	14
Assignment (s):	

# 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.

# Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

## **Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:**

- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 10
- Wireless or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 256 MB Ram
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins, Mozilla Firefox
- Participants should be proficient in the following:
  - Sending and receiving email
  - Internet searching
  - Microsoft Word
  - Acrobat PDF Reader
  - Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):** students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

**Technical Support:** Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

## **Communication Expectations and Standards:**

All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following ***my receipt*** of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

## **Submission of Assignments:**

Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

## **Discussion Requirement:**

Because this is an online course, there will be no required face to face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

**It is strongly suggested** that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.