

PHSC 3083 The Science of Everyday Life

Department of Chemistry & Physics, Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
COURSE LOCATION: E. E. O'Banion Science Building, Room 103
CLASS MEETING DAYS AND TIMES: NSCI A103, Mon. and Wed. 3:30pm – 4:50pm

TEXTBOOK: None are required

PREREQUISITES: PHSC 1123 – Physical Science I

COREQUISITES: None

ACCESS TO LEARNING RESOURCES:

AMS Online Weather Studies Website

Login Page: <http://www.ametsoc.org/amsedu/login.cfm>

(Login information will be given separately in class)

PVAMU Library:

phone: (936) 261-1500;

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

University Bookstore:

phone: (936) 261-1990;

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

COURSE GOALS: The goal of this course is to expose the science behind everyday things that students experience or use, help them enhance their appreciation for the physical nature of natural things as well as the human ingenuity that created technological things, and (most importantly) be able to communicate with their own students in schools.

COURSE OUTCOMES: The student should be able to gain an understanding of how weather and climate work, how weather maps are read and interpreted, how forecasts are produced, as well as an appreciation that the physical sciences are not separate and compartmentalized, but overlap, interact, and work together to produce the phenomena we see in the everyday world. In addition, the student should have some practical experience in the skills of critical thinking and how this relates to science and everyday life.

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS:

This course will utilize the following assessment instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course (point values given in the table):

Exams – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material, in the form of a mid-term exam and a final exam.

Exercises – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material: one-page summaries on various topics related to the course and six in-class critical thinking (or related) exercises.

Term Paper – A paper will be assigned that will be on a related topic of the student's choice. The student will present his/her findings in class for a separate grade (in class oral presentation).

Class Participation – daily attendance / participation in class discussions

Instrument	Value (points & percentages)	Total
Assignments-summary 1-page papers	10 assignments at 10 points each (22% course grade)	100
Critical Thinking Exercises	6 assignments at 10 points each (13% course grade)	60
In-class Oral Presentations	2 exercises at 15 points each (7% course grade)	30
Term Paper	1 paper at 30 points (7% course grade)	30
Mid-term Exam	1 exam at 100 points (22% course grade)	100
Class Participation/ Discussion	30 points (7% of course grade)	30
Final Exam	100 points (22% of course grade)	100
Total:		450

Makeup exams and other forms of makeup activities will be given only for university-approved absences verified in writing. Homework is to be turned in on time; no late homework will be accepted unless circumstances warrant. As mentioned above, there will be a variety of elements used in determining the final grade for this course. Reading assignments will be given regularly; it is important to keep up with them, as they will help to enhance the in class experience as well as your experience on the exams.

The grading system is as follows:

- A 90 – 100% (405 to 450 points)
- B 80 – 89% (360 to 404 points)
- C 70 – 79% (315 to 359 points)
- D 60 – 69% (270 to 314 points)
- F 0 – 59% (0 to 269 points)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class will start and end on time as indicated in the schedule above.

Attendance at every class is expected and is each student's responsibility-it is also imperative that you be on time as much as it is possible. Absence or tardiness, accumulated from day 1, may result in lowered grades; excessive absenteeism, whether EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or assignment of a grade of "F".

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. It is also imperative that you be on time as much as it is possible. You can find more details in the University Undergraduate Catalog (2005 – 2007, p.111).

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.