

COURSE SYLLABUS
PHS110: PHYSICAL SCIENCE
SPRING 2010

Instructor: Dr Mark R. McClure

Email: mark.mcclure@uncp.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Phone: 522-5706

Course Meeting Times: MWF 11:30 – 12:20 SCI 3256

Office: SCI 3217

Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:30, TR 10:00 – 11:00

Textbooks: “Physical Science,” 7th edition, by Bill W. Tillery

Course Description:

Physical science is concerned with “making sense out of the physical environment.” It draws upon many scientific disciplines including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and geology. The topics covered in this course will be primarily physics.

Physical science is a one-semester course designed primarily for non-science majors and is a general education majors. A corresponding lab course is occasionally offered but is not required.

Prerequisites:

There are no *official* prerequisites for physical science. However, it is strongly recommended that you have an understanding of basic algebra, as you will be expected to solve simple equations. For example, you should be able to take a simple equation such as $d = m/v$ and rearrange it into the alternate forms $v = m/d$ and $m=dv$.

Grading:

You will have four in-class exams and a comprehensive final exam. These will be averaged together to determine your final grade; therefore each counts as 20% of your final grade. All exams will be of the multiple-choice type. With each chapter, I will provide a list of accompanying problems. While these will not be collected or graded, it is highly recommended that you spend time with them, as you will see very similar problems on the exams.

Grades will be assigned according to the standard scale shown below

	B ⁺ 87-89	C ⁺ 77-79	D ⁺ 67-69
A 94-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 65-66
A ⁻ 90-93	B ⁻ 80-82	C ⁻ 70-72	D ⁻ 60-62

Attendance and Conduct Policy:

You are expected to regularly attend class. No make-up exams will be given for any reason. If you miss an exam for a *legitimate* reason such as a serious illness or automobile accident I will substitute your final exam grade. However, you should be prepared to present written documentation when you return. Reasons such as “my car wouldn’t start” or “my roommate turned off my alarm clock” will not be considered legitimate.

Please make every attempt to come to class on time. It is very distracting to have students continually coming to class late. If you do arrive late, please take a seat near the door so that the distraction is minimized. If the number of students arriving late to class becomes excessive, I will begin locking the door at the beginning of class and no one will be admitted late.

All cell phones should be switched off and put away at the beginning of class. If you are caught text-messaging during class you will be asked to leave the room. Leaving class to initiate or accept phone calls is unacceptable.

You should bring a calculator to class with you every period; I may occasionally ask you to solve problems in class. For exams, you must bring a dedicated calculator; you will not be allowed to use cell phone calculators during exams. Any calculator capable of doing basic mathematics will be sufficient.

Schedule:

A copy of the class schedule is shown below. This is a tentative schedule, meaning that we may progress more quickly or more slowly, depending upon the performance of the class.

M	January	11	Chapter 1: The World Around You
W	January	13	Chapter 1: The World Around You
F	January	15	Chapter 1: The World Around You
M	January	18	HOLIDAY
W	January	20	Chapter 1: The World Around You
F	January	22	Chapter 2: Motion
M	January	25	Chapter 2: Motion
W	January	27	Chapter 2: Motion
F	January	29	Chapter 3: Patterns of Motion
M	February	01	Chapter 3: Patterns of Motion
W	February	03	Chapter 3: Patterns of Motion
F	February	05	EXAM 1 CHAPTERS 1-3
M	February	08	Chapter 4: Energy
W	February	10	Chapter 4: Energy
F	February	12	Chapter 4: Energy

M	February	15	Chapter 4: Energy
W	February	17	Chapter 5: Heat and Temperature
F	February	19	Chapter 5: Heat and Temperature
M	February	22	Chapter 5: Heat and Temperature
W	February	24	Chapter 5: Heat and Temperature
F	February	26	Chapter 6: Wave Motions and Sound
M	March	01	Chapter 6: Wave Motions and Sound
W	March	03	Chapter 6: Wave Motions and Sound
F	March	05	EXAM 2 CHAPTERS 4-6
M	March	08	SPRING BREAK
W	March	10	SPRING BREAK
F	March	12	SPRING BREAK
M	March	15	Chapter 7: Electricity
W	March	17	Chapter 7: Electricity
F	March	19	Chapter 7: Electricity
M	March	22	Chapter 7: Electricity
W	March	24	Chapter 8: Light
F	March	26	Chapter 8: Light
M	March	29	Chapter 8: Light
W	March	31	Chapter 9: Atomic Structure
F	April	02	HOLIDAY
M	April	05	Chapter 9: Atomic Structure
W	April	07	Chapter 9: Atomic Structure
F	April	09	EXAM 3: CHAPTERS 7-9
M	April	12	Chapter 10: Elements and the Periodic Table
W	April	14	Chapter 10: Elements and the Periodic Table
F	April	16	Chapter 10: Elements and the Periodic Table
M	April	19	Chapter 11: Compounds and Chemical Change
W	April	21	Chapter 11: Compounds and Chemical Change
F	April	23	Chapter 11: Compounds and Chemical Change
M	April	26	Chapter 12: Chemical Formulas and Equations
W	April	28	Chapter 12: Chemical Formulas and Equations
F	April	30	EXAM 4: Chapters 10-12

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 7 at 8:00 AM