Course Description: This is a University Studies science course. The interdisciplinary application of scientific principles to society is emphasized. The scientific principles developed in this course are motion, energy, chemical changes, and other topics typically covered in physical science courses. Connections and applications of these principles to the other sciences and public issues are examined.

Textbook:


Lecture Time and Place: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30AM – 1:45PM, Room: STC–123

Lab Time and Place (IS1415 only): Tuesday, 2:00PM – 4:50PM, Room: STC–107

Instructor: Albert Menchaca
Office Location: STC 238
Office Phone: 903-468-8765 (no voice mail)
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00PM – 3:00PM or by appointment
Physics Office: 903-886-5488 FAX: 903-886-5480
Email: albert.menchaca@tamuc.edu

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will gain a better understanding of physical science concepts.
- Students will better understand scientific processes and test for further scientific knowledge.
- Students will understand the conceptual differences between facts, theories, and laws.
- Students will be able to compare the separate science disciplines and make integrative connections.

Grading Procedure and Scale:

Lecture Grade: The lecture portion of the grade is determined from quizzes, assignments, tests, and the final exam as outlined below:
Grades (IS1315 only):

OPTION I – No Final Exam
3 Exams 80%
Quizes/Homework/In-class assignments 20%
TOTAL: 100%

OPTION II – With Final Exam
3 Exams 60%
Quizes/Homework/In-class assignments 20%
Final Exam (comprehensive) 20%
TOTAL: 100%

Grades (IS1415 only):

OPTION I – No Final Exam
3 Exams 55%
Lab 25%
Quizes/Homework/In-class assignments 20%
TOTAL: 100%

OPTION II – With Final Exam
3 Exams 35%
Lab 25%
Quizes/Homework/In-class assignments 20%
Final Exam 20%
TOTAL: 100%

Important - There are No Make-ups Exams, quizzes, or homework. There is No Extra Credit Work

Very Important: Missing an exam without first making arrangements for a make-up with the instructor (excused absence must be cleared before the exam) will automatically result in a failing grade.

Lab Grade(IS1415 only): The laboratory grade counts 25% of the total class grade. The lab grading procedure will be discussed in lab. You must pass the lab to pass this course.

****A failing grade in lab will automatically result in a failing grade for the entire course****

Letter Grade Breakdown:

A = 90 and above
B = 80-89
C= 70-79
D = 60-69
F = Below 60
Course Outline and Final Exam (Tentative):

| Week 1-2 | Chapter 2 Describing Motion |
| Week 3   | Chapter 3 Newton’s Laws of Motion |
| Week 4-5 | Chapter 4 Momentum and Energy |
| Week 6-7 | Chapter 5 Gravity |
| Week 8   | Chapter 6 Heat |
| Week 9-10| Chapter 7 Electricity and Magnetism |
| Week 11  | Chapter 8 Waves – Sound and Light |
| Week 12  | Chapter 9 Atoms and Periodic Table |
| Week 13-14| Chapter 11 Investigating Matter |

Optional Final Exam is on Thursday, December 17 at 10:30am - 12:30pm

Attendance and Tardiness:

Students are expected to be on time and present for all class meetings. Excused absences can be arranged prior to the class period being missed for appropriate activities as determined by the instructor. If an emergency results in an absence, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible informing the instructor of the emergency and inquiring about ways to make up the missed class. The instructor will make judgment on how to handle the situation. Possible reasons for excused absence are listed in the “Student’s Guidebook” under class attendance policy. Attendance and tardy records will be maintained and both may result in deductions from your overall grade. **Four (4) consecutive unexcused absences, or six (6) cumulative unexcused absences, will result in a failing grade.** A course which is failed due to excessive absences has more serious financial aid consequences than a course which is failed in spite of regular attendance.

Classroom Behavior: Disorderly conduct which interferes with the normal classroom atmosphere will not be tolerated. The classroom instructor is the judge of such behavior and may instruct a disorderly student to leave the room with an unexcused absence or in more serious situations a student may be removed from the class with a failing grade. Students with cell phones must have cell phones set to silent or vibrate mode. **You are not permitted to answer calls during class instruction or examination periods.**

Cheating and other Breaches of Academic Conduct: Academic cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct may result in removal of the student from class with a failing grade or may in extreme cases result in suspension or expulsion from the University as described in the “Code of Student Conduct” section of the “Student’s Guidebook”.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**Evaluation of Instruction:** Students will be given opportunities to evaluate instruction near the end of the semester. The physics department utilizes a scantron graded questionnaire with statements regarding various elements of instruction and in addition utilizes an open ended form where students can make comments on all elements of the classroom. These comments are given to the instructor and department head soon after the grades are recorded. If students have concerns about the classroom experience during the semester, they should inform the instructor of those concerns and failing a satisfactory response may, as a last resort, contact the physics department head with those concerns.