Tentative Syllabus
IS1317.001 - Integrated Science II
Fall 2015

Course Description: Four semester hours (3 lecture). 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 cellular structure, genetics, DNA, astronomical and geological issues, and other topics covered in life earth sciences courses. Connections and applications of these principles to the other sciences and public issues are examined.


Lecture Time and Place: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00AM – 12:15PM, Room: STC–123

Instructor: Albert Menchaca
Office Location: STC 344
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.

Goals of the Course:

In this course, students will be introduced to the various sciences and how they are applied to daily life and experiences. Students will explore the integration of these sciences, learn how physics is the basis for all the other science disciplines, and how to analyze data and solve problems in daily life. Students will also examine the scientific method, enabling them to think more critically, ask questions, and search for answers.
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:**

OPTION I – No Final Exam

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>Quizes/Homework/In-class assignments</td>
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OPTION II – With Final Exam

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<td>Final Exam (comprehensive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
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**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 the failing grade.

**Letter Grade Breakdown:**

- A = 90 and above
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = Below 60

**Lecture Topics (Tentative):**

- Week 1-2 Chapter 15 The Basic Unit of Life – The Cell
- Week 3 Chapter 16 Genetics
- Week 4 Chapter 17 Evolution of Life
- Week 5 Chapter 22 Plate Tectonics
- Week 6-7 Chapter 23 Rocks and Minerals
- Week 8-9 Chapter 26 Weather
- Week 10 Chapter 27 Environmental Ecology
- Week 11-12 Chapter 28 The Solar System
- Week 13-14 Chapter 29 The Universe

**Final Exam is on Tuesday, December 15 from 10:30am to 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. **Five unexcused absences will automatically result in a failing grade.**

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.