



Course Syllabus: course name

College of Education
GNSC 3104 Section 101
Fall 2026 T/Th

Contact Information

Instructor: Sabrina Bradley
Office: Bridwell Hall 212
Office hours: Tues: 10 am to 1pm; Wed: ([Zoom](#)) 1pm to 3pm
Office phone: TBA
GroupMe: [GroupMe Link](#)
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Course Description

The curriculum will emphasize the interaction of the science disciplines and feature the fundamental principles of physical, biological and earth sciences for all levels of teaching science. Creditable only for students seeking an education certification in science

Textbook & Instructional Materials

McGraw-Hill Connect: Integrated Science, 8th Edition

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please see the schedule for more information about times and offerings. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Weight
Daily Grades	30%
Major Grades	50%
Participation Grades	20%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100%
B	80 to 89%
C	70 to 79%
D	60 to 69%
F	Less than 60%

Homework

Every week you will have a Smartbook assignment to complete. It will be done outside of class and must be completed by the indicated due date.

Exams

Your exams will be assigned 240 tutoring sections. These sections will take the place of a standard classroom exam and will better prepare students for the Science Content Exam.

Projects Required

There will be several group projects throughout the semester. They are listed on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Extra Credit

There will be a few extra credit assignments offered throughout the semester.

Late Work

I can accept late work up to three days late, but the student must contact Ms. Bradley in advance to work out the extension.

Final Project

The semester will conclude with a teaching experience project in lieu of a standard final exam. This will require the student to create a science lesson and present to the class. More information will be provided later in the semester.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students can make up missed work and tests for excused absences only. This includes, university events, illness (self or family member), etc. The student must provide documentation of the excused absence prior to doing the makeup work.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 27th
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21st for December Graduates
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23rd
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

It is expected that all course communication and assignments will be professional. Offensive language, slang, and informal language are not appropriate.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state)

exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law

for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week	Unit & Topic Focus	Lecture Concepts	Assignment
1	Course Orientation & Unifying Science Concepts	Systems and subsystems, form and function, lab safety	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 1- Due Aug 30th at 11:59 pm
2	Physical Science: Matter & Its Properties	Observable and measurable physical properties, states of matter, density, measurement tools	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 2- Due Sept 6th at 11:59 pm

3	Physical Science: Chemical Changes & Reactions	Physical vs. chemical changes, periodic table basics, chemical equations, conservation of matter	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 3- Due Sept 13th at 11:59 pm
4	Physical Science: Force, Motion, & Simple Machines	Fundamental forces (gravity, friction), Newton's laws, graphing motion, simple machine mechanics	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 4- Due Sept 20th at 11:59 pm
5	Physical Science: Energy Forms & Wave Phenomena	Energy transformation and conservation, electricity and magnetism, heat transfer, light and sound waves	Tutoring 240 Physical Science Quiz- Due Oct 4th by 11:59pm
6	Life Science: Cell Biology & Living Systems	Cell theory, organelle structure and function, levels of biological organization	Finish 240 Quiz
7	Life Science: Human Body Systems & Regulation	Human organ systems, homeostasis and feedback mechanisms, internal/external stimuli	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 5- Due Oct 11th at 11:59 pm
8	Life Science: Genetics & Heredity	Asexual vs. sexual reproduction, DNA, dominant/recessive traits, Punnett squares, inherited vs. learned traits	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 6- Due Oct 18th at 11:59 pm
9	Life Science: Evolution, Adaptation, & Ecology	Natural selection, adaptations, food webs, trophic levels, symbiotic relationships, ecosystem dynamics	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 7- Due Oct 25th at 11:59 pm
10	Earth & Space: Earth Materials & Geosphere	Rock and mineral classification, soil composition, rock cycle, plate tectonics, weathering and erosion	Tutoring 240 Life Science Quiz- Due Nov 8th by 11:59pm

11	Earth & Space: Earth Systems, Cycles, & Human Impact	Hydrosphere and atmosphere interactions, water/carbon/nitrogen cycles, catastrophic events, human impact	Finish 240 Quiz
12	Earth & Space: Weather & Climate Systems	Atmospheric pressure, meteorological tools, weather patterns, ocean currents, climate zones	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 8- Due Nov 15th at 11:59 pm
13	Earth & Space: Astronomy & the Solar System	Earth-Sun-Moon relationships (phases, tides, seasons), solar system components, scale and motion	McGraw Hill Smartbook Assignment 9- Due Nov 24th at 11:59 pm
	Thanksgiving Break: No Class		
14	Earth & Space: Deep Space & Semester Review	Stars, galaxies, origins of the universe, synthesis of EC–8 crosscutting science concepts	Tutoring 240 Earth Science Quiz- Due Dec 10th by 11:59pm
Finals	Final Examination / Culminating Teaching Experience	Team Teaching a Science Lesson	Tuesday Dec 8th at 8am