



**Course Syllabus: Physical Science**  
**Kimbell School of Geoscience**  
GNSC 1204 Section 101  
Fall 2023

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan D. Price  
Office: Bolin 102  
Office hours: MW 9-11a | M 2-3p | F 3-4p | by appointment  
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Lecture: MWF, 08:00 am-08:50 am Bolin 304

**Course Description**

Physical Science is a college-level course that introduces the prevailing concepts and useful concepts of physics and chemistry in a fundamental fashion. The course provides student opportunities to...

- Explore the nature of scientific inquiry
- Measure motion through velocity and acceleration
- Evaluate the nature of forces and energy
- Investigate and outline energy transfer in a number of manifestations - including heat, electricity, light and sound
- Examine the structure of the atom, and how that structure controls ionization and bonding, resulting in periodicity
- Characterize the general nature of chemical reactions, stoichiometric assessment, and energetics
- Assess the nature of water, solutions, and the properties of acids and bases

The class is curriculum specific to those interested in EC-6<sup>th</sup> grade education, although other enrollees may take the course with prior advisory approval. The course is designed to impart background information crucial to a rudimentary understanding about the current understanding of our physical environment.

**Textbooks**

**Required**

- *Science Matters: Achieving Science Literacy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., ISBN:978-0-307-45458-4
- Top Hat subscription

**Suggested:** *Conceptual Integrated Science: An introduction to the sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., ISBN: 9780321

## Instructional Materials

- Dedicated scientific calculator
- Periodic table of the elements (with numbers and weights) - preferably one you are able to annotate (perhaps better than the one in the front of book).
- Ruler (with metric scale), drawing tools
- Access to a phone, tablet, or laptop during participation activities and quizzes
- Access to a computer outside of class

## Lab Assistance

Lab teaching assistant: Ms. Tayaisha Laville

## 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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. The [Academic Honesty Checklist](#) describes the timeline for appealing from the instructor to the next in line (chair of department) and who must be notified of academic honesty infractions.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not.

Plagiarism may result in an F for the class or more extensive consequences.

## Artificial Intelligence

Chatbots (like ChatGPT) have recently grown in sophistication and accessibility. They can be useful tools to assist in drafting out responses, but they should be an assistance, not a substitute for your thinking.

Earth Science is a beautifully diverse field; you need to find your own voice. Any creative input in this class is an opportunity to test and refine that; avoid shortchanging yourself the feedback you deserve.

Finally, in all academic work, ideas and contributions from others must be acknowledged. Using an AI-content generator to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. For this class, use of AI-content with appropriate citation is permitted.

## Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Components	Points
Quizzes (Top Hat)	10 %
Participation (Top Hat)	10 %
Midterm Exam	11 %
Journal assignments	12 %
Final Exam	12 %
Lab Assignments	30 %
Laboratory midterm	7 %
Laboratory final	8 %

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	>90%
B	80-90%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

## Submissions

Submission instructions will generally be given for each assessment. Lab materials may be submitted in person to your individual lab instructor. Journals are to be submitted using D2L, and in-class electronic assessments will be collected using Top Hat.

## Quizzes

We will have a quiz approximately every second Friday. Quizzes are timed at 10 minutes or longer at the discretion of the professor. There are six on the proposed schedule. Instructions for completion will be given during each quiz.

## Projects Required

There are two journal opportunities for the class. These are assigned at an appropriate point in the lecture schedule (generally at 5 weeks and 14 weeks). Details will be provided on D2L.

## Mid-Term Exam

The Mid-term exam will evaluate student comprehension of material up to the day of the examination. The tentative schedule for covered topics and date is provided below.

## Final Exam

The final exam will be a comprehensive, two-hour examination at the scheduled time for the class (see schedule below).

### Extra Credit

There will be a handful of opportunities for additional, non-required credit.

### Late Work

Execution of this class will require a focused and directed effort on the part of your instructors to complete grading and input grades on a timely manner. As such, late work penalizes the rest of the class. Late work will only be accepted if the professor (and TA in the case of lab work) are notified before it is due and agree to accept it as late. Generally, if the request is approved, you have one additional week to submit the work for partial credit.

### Make Up Participation/Quizzes/Tests

An excused absence is required to make up. Excuse requests are typically accepted provided that the professor is notified prior to the absence. Excuses are rarely issued if the professor is notified after the absence. Excuse requests need not be elaborate; contact the professor by email or through D2L.

There is no makeup for the participation exercises; you must be participating in the class to complete these.

For quizzes, the professor will typically take the next quiz grade and apply it to your missing grade.

For examination, the student must work out with the professor an agreeable date and time for the makeup prior to the exam.

### Top Hat

Extensive Top Hat is an external tool that facilitates participation and engagement, and enrollment is an added requirement for the class. We will be using Top Hat and the Top Hat test tool (<https://tophat.com/>). This requires a subscription to the pro version (without add ons).

Top Hat is separate from D2L. It is important that when you register for Top Hat you use the first and last names used on D2L to correctly transfer your grade. Please also use an email address that you check frequently.

### Attendance

Attendance for lecture is required. Lab attendance is also required for completion of this class. Most sessions will have a supervised activity that requires your full, prepared attention. Preparation includes comprehension of the lab book and participation of online activities. If you fail to attend and complete more than 2 laboratory sessions without an approved excuse, you will be either be dropped from the class or you will receive a failing grade.

During in-building participation, students must comply with MSU's requirement for wearing a face covering and any other safety directives dictated by the instructors.

Illness: If you are feeling ill, then you shouldn't be on campus. If illness interferes with your participating in remote learning, then you should do the following:

1. Email the professor through D2L; use "ill" in the subject line
2. Contact the health center or your health provider

See notes regarding COVID-19 below.

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

### Learning environment

Dr. Price is committed to providing an open forum for learning and endeavors to make this class a supportive and strengthening space for all students; he's keen to make this exciting content accessible and free of exclusion. He is available and willing to address your issues and concerns. He also wants you to be aware of the following supporting structures that assist in this environment.

MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center: a "support, resource, and advocacy center providing multicultural opportunities for the MSU Community that promotes self-awareness, identity, and culture" <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/mosaic/index.php>

Policies for general student complaints are available at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/dean/general.php>. General student complaints should start with the informal process form [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout\\_id=4](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=4)

Sexual misconduct is handled by the Title IX Coordinator, and misconduct information and reporting is

<https://public.powerdms.com/MidwesternState/tree/documents/2221051>

Anonymous complaints can be made through EthicsPoint:

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/45483/index.html>

### 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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](#).

## University Policies

### 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 as 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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#).

## Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#). The [Grade Appeal Checklist](#) provides the timeline for appealing from the instructor to the next in line (dean of the college).

## Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 31  
Deadline to file for Dec. graduation: September 25  
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

## Illness

Covid-19 remains a concern. The instructor would appreciate your thoughtful engagement of the class, including respecting the health, safety, and concerns of your colleagues.

As always – illness is an excused absence. Please follow university guidance regarding the illness, including any adaptations and changes as the semester proceeds.

## Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. This is not business-as-usual this semester...anticipate thoughtful changes as we move forward.

## Proposed Topic Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Lab</b>
1	M	8/28/2022	Intro	none	None
1	W	8/30/2022	Science	1	None
1	F	9/1/2022	Science	1	None
2	W	9/6/2022	Measurements	1	None
2	F	9/8/2022	Measurements / Quiz 1	1	None
2	M	9/11/2022	Time	1	1. Mass and volume
3	W	9/13/2022	Time	1	1. Mass and volume
3	F	9/15/2022	Visual Literacy & The Scientific Mind	1	None
4	M	9/18/2022	Motion	1	2. Motion
4	W	9/20/2022	Motion	1	2. Motion
4	F	9/22/2022	Motion / Quiz 2	1	None
5	M	9/25/2022	Newton and Motion	1	3. Centripetal force
5	W	9/27/2022	Newton and Motion	1	3. Centripetal force
5	F	9/30/2022	Newton and Motion	1	None
6	M	10/2/2022	Momentum	1	4. Work
6	W	10/4/2022	Work	2	4. Work
6	F	10/6/2022	Work / Quiz 3	2	None
7	M	10/9/2022	Energy	2	5. Specific heat
7	W	10/11/2022	Energy	none	5. Specific heat
7	F	10/13/2022	Gravity	none	None
8	M	10/16/2022	Gravity	2	Midterm
8	W	10/18/2022	Exam 1	1-2	Midterm
8	F	10/20/2022	Heat and temperature	2	None
9	M	10/23/2022	Heat and temperature	2	6. Magnetism and Electricity
9	W	10/25/2022	Heat and temperature	2	6. Magnetism and Electricity
9	F	10/27/2022	Electricity / Quiz 4	3	None
10	M	10/30/2022	Electricity	3	7. Conductivity
10	W	11/1/2022	Electricity	3	7. Conductivity
10	F	11/3/2022	Waves, sound, light	none	None
11	M	11/6/2022	Waves, sound, light	none	8. Qualitative Analysis
11	W	11/8/2022	Atoms	4	8. Qualitative Analysis
11	F	11/10/2022	Atoms / Quiz 5	4	None
12	M	11/13/2022	Periods	5	9. Acids and bases
12	W	11/15/2022	Periods	5	9. Acids and bases
12	F	11/17/2022	Radioactivity	8	None

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Lab</b>
13	M	11/20/2022	Matter	7	None
14	M	11/27/2022	Bonds / Quiz 6	6	10. Titration
14	W	11/29/2022	Chemical Reactions	7	10. Titration
14	F	12/1/2022	Chemical Reactions	7	None
15	M	12/4/2022	Water and Solutions	none	Lab Final
15	W	12/6/2022	Water and Solutions	none	Lab Final
15	F	12/8/2022	Universe	10/11	None
F	W	12/13/2022	Final Exam - 8:00 AM	all	None