Tentative Syllabus

Physics 101: Earth, Air, Fire, and Water
Third Summer Session
July 24 to August 25, 2006

Place: Sci 218

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 MTuWTh

Instructor: Dr. Stuart Snyder
Office: Sci 203
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Office Hours: by arrangement.

Text: Physical Science (7th edition) by Tillery.

Course Description:

This course will provide the student with a basic understanding of everyday physics. We will study motion including Newton’s Laws, rotational motion, force, energy, and momentum. We will also cover wave motion, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, the nature of light, elements of quantum mechanics, and an introduction to nuclear physics. If time permits, Einstein’s theory of special relativity will be discussed. This course emphasizes a conceptual understanding of physics. However, physics is a problem-solving science, and some mathematics (arithmetic and basic algebra) is necessary to fully appreciate the subject. It is expected that students have these basic math skills. Several (4 to 5) homework problems will be assigned each week, but will not be graded. The homework will be discussed in class as needed.

Testing:

We will tentatively have four 1-hour exams, one per week, and a comprehensive final exam, on the following chapters:

Exam 1: Chapter 1: What is Science and Chapter 2: Motion
Exam 2: Chapter 2: Motion (cont.) and Chapter 3: Energy
Exam 3: Chapter 4: Heat and Temperature and Chapter 5: Wave Motion
Exam 4: Chapter 6: Electricity and Chapter 7: Light
Final Exam: Chapters 1-7, Chapter 8: Atoms, and Chapter 13: Nuclear Reactions
Grading:

The exams will be worth 70% of the final grade and the final exam worth 30% of the final grade.

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

- 93% to 100%    A
- 90% to 92%      A-
- 87% to 89%      B+
- 83% to 86%      B
- 80% to 82%      B-
- 77% to 79%      C+
- 69% to 76%      C
- 65% to 68%      C-
- 61% to 64%      D+
- 54% to 60%      D
- 50% to 53%      D-
- less than 50%    F

Make-up Policy:

Make-up exams must be scheduled in advance of the scheduled hour exam. Failure to do so will result in a 0 for that exam.

Academic Honesty:

It has been my experience that the vast majority of students taking this course are honest, hard-working students who enjoy learning. In fairness to these students, I do not tolerate cheating on exams. A student caught cheating on an exam will receive an “F” for the course.