

Tentative Syllabus

Physics 101: Earth, Air, Fire, and Water Fall Semester 2009

Place: Science Auditorium

Time: 10:30 to 11:30 MWF

Instructor: Dr. Stuart Snyder

Office: Sci 203

Office Telephone: 657-2190

Department Telephone: 657-2031

Email: ssnyder@msubillings.edu

Office Hours: 1:00 to 3:00 MW and by arrangement.

Text: *Physical Science* (8th 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.

Assessment:

Grades will be determined by four 1-hour exams 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 hour 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 can be scheduled in advance of the scheduled hour exam. Otherwise, all missed exams can be made up only on Thursday, December 10, 2009 during a special class session from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

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 or plagiarism. A student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an "F" for the course.