



INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE

PS 1317, SECTION 010 • VIN 158 • MWF 9:00–9:50AM • SPRING 2022

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:00am–12:15pm

Tuesday, Thursday

9:00am–10:45am

Also available by appointment or whenever
my door is open!

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. There is no required text; however, the **recommended** text is The Physical Universe (ISBN: 9781260150520).
2. TopHat.com access – [Learn about TopHat on the ASU website.](#)

PS 1317

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE

PS 1317

Section 010

CRN 20415

MWF 9–9:50am

VIN 158

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will provide an introduction to the foundations of physical science, including selected areas of physics, chemistry, earth science, and space science.

This course is intended to acquaint students with the scientific method and basic tenets of scientific inquiry, to help students develop a better understanding of science in general, and develop reasoning skills and strategies to prepare them for other upper-division course work. To this end, the course will emphasize a mix of conceptual understanding and standard end-of chapter homework solving skills.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes for the course, listed below, will be assessed through performance on guided classroom discussions, homework, and embedded questions within exams.

- Learn the fundamental principles of science and recognize science as an iterative process.
- Develop scientific reasoning and thinking skills that can be applied beyond the classroom.
- Gain factual knowledge in science and a broader understanding and appreciation of science.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Lecture & Participation

Lecture will be offered in a modified traditional format. All students will be expected to attend lecture face-to-face and are **strongly encouraged to wear face coverings**. Please thoroughly read the section of this syllabus regarding classroom etiquette for further information on expectations for lecture attendance.

Lecture Preparation

You are expected to have access to the assigned texts, paper for notes, and a suitable writing utensil (preferably a pencil with an eraser), and a scientific calculator at every class meeting. If you have access to a handwriting capable tablet, it may be used in place of paper for notetaking. You will likely find it helpful to read ahead in the textbook before each class.



TopHat

We will use TopHat this term during lecture to take attendance, administer quizzes, and complete conceptual checkpoints that will contribute to your participation grade in the course. TopHat offers a discounted price for ASU students.

Register your account at www.TopHat.com. Use your legal name, ASU email, and ASU Campus ID number (ex: 87654321) when setting up your account. The course code is **382587**.

Attendance is considered mandatory and will be taken daily. Attendance will directly contribute to your participation grade in the course. Students will be able to report their attendance daily via TopHat and a spirit of honesty will be maintained in the attendance policy. Note that you are responsible for everything that we do in lecture, so it is to your advantage to attend.

Additionally, conceptual checkpoints are an integrated part of lecture and will be administered unannounced using TopHat. These checkpoints will only be graded for completion and will sometimes be used as the subject of guided class discussion. Conceptual checkpoints will not have makeup opportunities.

Individual and Team-Based Activities (ITBA)

Throughout the term you will be asked to complete individual and team-based activities. These will usually be completed during class; however, may occasionally be take-home. No makeup activities will be given.

Group Project (GP)

There will be a group project assigned towards the end of the term. This will be an extended, multi-week project that will almost exclusively be completed outside of class. You will be expected to work collaboratively with your group to complete the assigned work and produce any required deliverables.

Exams

Two (2) in-class exams will be administered as scheduled. No makeup exams will be given, so please plan accordingly. All exams will be given in our normal classroom. Please see the course calendar on the last page of this syllabus for scheduled exam dates and anticipated content.

Exam Rules

Calculators are permitted. All other electronics must be stowed out of sight during exams. Cell phones and smart watches are not considered to be calculators regardless of what apps may have been installed. If you are observed attempting to use a cell phone or smart watch during the exam, you will be asked to leave and issued a zero for the exam without exception.



GRADING POLICIES

The following scores will be recorded during the course of the semester:

Participation, ITBAs, GP, Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, and Final Exam. The course grade will be the weighted average of Participation at 10%, ITBAs at 30%, GP 15%, and Exams at 15% each.

There are no makeup exams; however, the final exam score can replace the lowest midterm. In other words, the three highest scores from Exam 1, Exam 2, Final Exam, and Final Exam will be considered for the course grade.

Your letter grade will be determined on the following scale: F (≤ 59), D (60-69), C (70-79), B (80-89), A (90-100). The instructor reserves the right to lower the boundaries between letter grades at their discretion. The boundaries will never be raised above what is shown.

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. [See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.](#)

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Attending lecture is mandatory. You are considered both advised and responsible for anything discussed during lecture. Leaving lecture early or arriving late is considered both rude and distracting. If you have an expected reason to depart early, please inform the lecturer at the beginning of class.

All students are expected to be respectful of their peers during lecture by not becoming a distraction. If you become a distraction to other students, then you will be dismissed from class for that day. Some actions, including but not limited to the following, will result in you being considered a distraction to your peers: repeatedly arriving late, reading unrelated material, using your cell phone in any way outside of approved exercises, visiting with your neighbor, sleeping, eating, "vaping," and the use of any and all tobacco products.

No laptops or any other electronic devices are allowed in class unless the need for such a device for reason of a disability is documented by Student Disability Services.

For the safety of your lecturer and peers, all students are **strongly encouraged** to wear a mask/facial covering that covers both the nose and mouth while attending class.



INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT *(Adapted from Yale Center for Teaching and Learning)*

Civility and Respect

Our university supports and wants to foster a civil, respectful, and open-minded climate so that all of us can live and work in an environment free of harassment, bias-motivated behaviors, unfair treatment, and fear. The university expects all members of our community to refrain from actions or behaviors that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups or that undermine their security or self-esteem based on traits related to race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, or physical or mental ability, including learning and/or developmental disabilities and past/present history of mental disorder or other category protected by state or federal law.

Student Disability Services

Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ada@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).

The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas A. Swafford

Director of Student Disability Services

Email: dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Office Email: ada@angelo.edu

Office Phone: [325.942.2047](tel:325.942.2047)



Title IX

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance and Title IX Coordinator

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Office Phone: [325.942.2022](tel:325.942.2022)

Report an incident: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.



Note from Dr. Holcomb: As a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and am obligated to report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center ([325.942.2371](tel:325.942.2371)), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline ([325.486.6345](tel:325.486.6345)), or the University Health Clinic ([325.942.2171](tel:325.942.2171)).

Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See [ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day](#) for more information.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

Modifications To The Syllabus

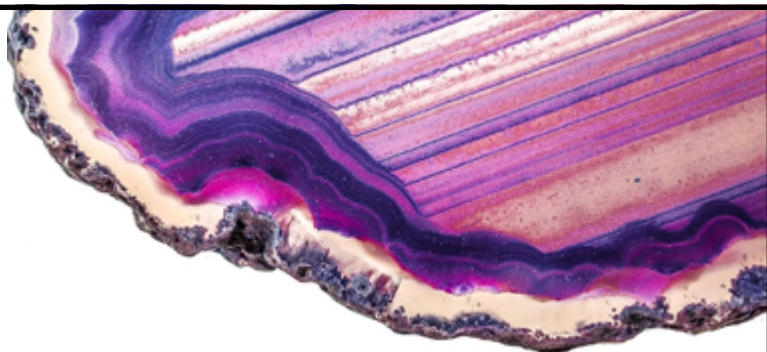
All components of this syllabus are subject to modification at the lecturer's discretion. In particular, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may require changes in course delivery, grade evaluation, schedule, and content on potentially short notice.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Be prepared! These tips will help you keep up, make for more productive classroom interaction, and help you be prepared for homework, labs, and exams that make up your semester grade.

- Pay special attention to examples worked in class.
- Study your notes.
- Read the material in the text before we cover it in class.
- Begin all homework assignments as soon as possible. Don't get behind or wait until just before an exam to begin.
- Make use of the free in-person and online tutoring services available through the Tutoring Center.
- If you are stuck, come prepared with questions during office hours or make an appointment to meet at another time.
- Once you can work through a problem with your notes, book, study group, etc., be sure you can rework it entirely on your own.
- Don't "blow off" any exam just because there is a dropped score. The purpose of the dropped score is in case of illness or other extenuating circumstances.

COURSE CALENDAR



Our tentative course calendar is below. I reserve the right to change this calendar as needed; however, I will inform you in class or via email in advance of any changes.

Remember to check our Blackboard class page regularly for class advisories and updates. Also remember to check your university email (RamMail) account regularly for other important university correspondence.

Week of	Events	Lecture Topic	Chapter
Jan. 17	Wednesday, Jan. 19: First class meeting Friday, Jan 21: Last day to make schedule changes for this term	The Scientific Method	1
Jan. 24		Periodic Law	10
Jan. 31	Thursday, Feb 03: Drops and withdrawals are now recorded on transcripts	Periodic Law	10
Feb. 07		Crystals, Ions, and Solutions	11
Feb. 14		Chemical Reactions	12
Feb. 21	Friday, Feb. 25: Exam 1 (Ch. 9-13)	Organic Chemistry	13
Feb. 28		Atmosphere and Hydrosphere	14
Mar. 07		Atmosphere and Hydrosphere	14
Mar. 14	<i>Spring Break – No class</i>	Atmosphere and Hydrosphere	
Mar. 21		The Rock Cycle	15
Mar. 28		The Evolving Earth	16
Apr. 04	Friday, Apr. 08: Exam 2 (Ch. 14-16)	The Evolving Earth	16
Apr. 11		The Solar System	17
Apr. 18		The Solar System	17
Apr. 25	Thursday, Apr. 28: Last day to drop or withdraw for this term Sunday, May 01: Group Project Due	The Stars	18
May 02	Friday, May 06: Last class meeting	Universe	19
May 09	Wednesday, May 11: Comprehensive Final Exam, 8:00–10:00am in VIN 158		