

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

General Physical Science - Summer 2009 (Sec. 0079)

Instructor:

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Physical Science Department

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Required Material - An Introduction to Physical Science (12th ed.) by Shipman, Todd, and Wilson, and a hand-held calculator (preferably scientific). You will be required to provide your own calculator for all quizzes and tests.

Class Meetings - June 1st - July 23rd ; 11:00 am to 1:15 pm MTWR in SC 100.

Homework - Homework emphasizing important concepts from the lecture will be assigned periodically. These homework assignments will not be collected, but in most cases will serve as the basis for the material in the quizzes.

Quizzes - Eight quizzes will be given during the semester. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Your quiz grades will account for 10% of your final grade.

Special Projects - Five special projects will be assigned during the semester. Special projects will account for 15% of your final grade. These special projects are typically short essay assignments (500 words) to be submitted via the 'Turnitin' website. More details about the process for submission will be provided prior to the first assignment.

Tests - Six hour examinations, including the final, will be given during the semester. Your lowest test score will be dropped. Tests will be multiple choice, and you will need to supply your own ScanTron® forms. The five 'hour' exams (not including the final) will be given during the first hour of the class period (11:00 - 12:00). Following a short break, we will review the test for the remainder of the period. Tests will account for 75% of your final grade.

Final - The final will be comprehensive, and will be given Thursday, July 23rd, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Make-up Policy - Quizzes and tests may not be made up. In the event you have a conflict with a scheduled quiz or exam, it **may** be possible to take the quiz/exam early. This privilege is entirely up to the discretion of the instructor.

Grading - Your final grade will be based on the percentages as listed above. For quizzes and special projects the maximum score will be 10 points. For the hour exams and the final, the 'maximum' grade will be the average of the two highest raw scores on each exam, and all test percentages will be calculated using this value. The grading scale will be 100-90% (A); 90-80% (B); 80-70% (C); 70-60% (D). A grade of F will be assigned to anyone who has below a 60% OR to anyone caught cheating in this course. As the instructor I reserve the right to assign a letter grade higher than the above percentages would indicate.

Attendance - Attendance is required; however, detailed attendance records will not be kept during lecture. Since tests cover the material discussed during the lecture, it is to your advantage to attend all class meetings. If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for the material covered during that period. As a courtesy to the rest of the class, wireless devices with an audible notification feature (cell phones, pagers, etc.) must be either turned off or set to the 'silent' mode, except in the case of an emergency. If you do have an emergency, please notify the instructor before class of the nature of the emergency and that you will need to have these devices turned on during class. Use of a wireless phone during class in the classroom will not be tolerated without prior instructor approval.

Tentative Schedule: The course will be taught in five blocks, with each block lasting about six lecture days. The following is the material to be covered during each of the blocks:

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| Block 1 | Chapters 1, 19, and 20 |
| Block 2 | Chapters 2-4 |
| Block 3 | Chapters 5, 8, and 9 |
| Block 4 | Chapters 10-13 |
| Block 5 | Chapters 15-18 |

Teaching Philosophy: My belief is that you are an adult, and therefore are ultimately responsible to do what is necessary to succeed in this class; therefore I do not take attendance nor do I collect homework assignments - you are expected to do both of these to help you understand the presented material. I further believe the best learning environment is a relaxed, interactive environment. I rely on feedback from you to help me guide you through areas with which you are having difficulty. From my perspective, a lack of questions over a section of lecture or homework implies understanding, so I encourage questions over areas that you are struggling. I also believe that the class needs to set it's own pace for covering the material - this is why there are no 'fixed' test dates. However, there is a certain amount of material that has to be covered, so there is not unlimited flexibility in the pace at which the material is presented.

It is the policy of Cameron University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting the Office of Student Development at 581-2209, North Shepler Room 314.