

PS 110 General Physical Science  
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Jon M. Saken  
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Office Hours: MWF: 9:30 - 11:30 or by appt.  
Texts: *The Physical Universe, 14th ed.*; Krauskopf & Bieser  
PS 110L Lab Manual; Bady  
Computer Requirements: Internet access

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the concepts of chemistry and earth science for the non-science major. Topics include: Atomic theory and structure; the Periodic Table; simple molecules; chemical reactions; organic chemistry; the atmosphere and oceans; rocks and minerals; the structure of the earth; plate tectonics and geology. Chapters 8 - 16 in the textbook will be covered. Additional materials are found in the lab book or will be supplied by the instructor.

**Evaluation & Grading:**

Lesson Plans	5%	A	90-100
HW Quizzes	25%	B	80-89
Tests	50%	C	70-79
<b>Cumulative</b> Final Exam	20%	D	60-69
...		F	0-59

**Assignments & Due Dates:** Please see the schedule on the course website for a complete list of all assignments and due dates for the semester.

**Lesson Plans:** The best ways to learn science are (a) by doing science and (b) teaching it to someone else. These assignments are designed to encourage you to do both. A total of four (4) are due over the course of the semester. For each you will be required to engage in an investigation and/or small amount of research on your own and then write a grade-appropriate lesson plan for the activity. *Due dates and additional information on these are posted on the course website.*

**Homework Quizzes:** Weekly homework is posted on the course website, however the homework will not be collected. Instead, each Friday (except for the dates of the tests) a short homework quiz will be conducted. The questions will either be identical to homework questions, or **very** closely related. The quiz will conclude 10 minutes after the start of class. *Latecomers will not be permitted to take the quiz.* The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Course Policies:**

- **ALL** work submitted must be typed (word-processed) and stapled with your name clearly on the front. No exceptions.

- Any work handed in late will suffer a 10% penalty per **calendar** day. This does not apply for any day for which there is an excused absence.
- Makeup quizzes or tests will **NOT** be allowed except for *documented* emergencies. The instructor reserves the right to allow exceptions to this policy at his sole discretion without incurring any obligation to allow exceptions in any particular case.
- If you must miss a class contact me immediately. Also, be sure to let me know at least a week ahead of time if a university activity will require an absence from class.
- Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom. Please turn cellphones to OFF or vibrate while in class.
- Except for calculators, *all other electronic devices must be turned off in class.*
- Any act of academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a final grade of F for the class.

### Tips:

- *Don't fall behind* - This is an introductory course for non-science majors, but it is still a science course. Many of the topics may be unfamiliar. If you have to catch up while trying to cover new topics you will probably end up missing something.
- *Do all the work* - and maybe more. If you find your science background is a bit lacking you will need to spend more time on this class than on other courses. You may also need to do extra homework to understand the material.
- *Come prepared to ask questions* - We will spend a great deal of time in class discussing the material and answering questions from the text, homework, activities, etc. If you are unprepared to engage in the discussion then you will probably not get what you need out of the scheduled class time and your performance will likely suffer. Write down questions as they occur to you so you are prepared. I really mean it, there are NO “dumb questions.”
- *Engage in active learning* - You will probably not do well if you passively read a science text. Study the diagrams and illustrations, make sure you understand their purpose and all the details. Look for their relation to the material. Try the example problems. Then read everything again and look for things you might have missed. If there is anything you don't understand, write it down and ask in class.

**Policy for Students with Disabilities** Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117 (304.696.2271) to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing, and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, access the website for the Office of Disabled Student Services: <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled/>