Course Description: This is a survey course in the physical sciences and scientific methods and is intended for non-science majors. The course enables students to become familiar with general topics in physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology, and astronomy with an emphasis on physics topics. A lab is included, and basic mathematics is required.

Text, References, and Supplies:


Books are discussed during the first class meeting.

Course Goals/Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have a general understanding of scientific methods and the theories of the physical sciences. In addition, the student will have developed a general approach to understanding and analyzing problems in the physical sciences at a level appropriate to the course.

Student Contributions and Class Policies:

Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student handbook on this subject or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject.

- Tests will occur approximately once every three weeks and will cover the material since the previous test. The Final Exam is comprehensive.
- The Final Exam grade will be used to replace one other test grade lower than the Final, if there is at least one test grade lower than the Final.
- Make-up tests can be arranged in extenuating circumstances with approval of the instructor. The make-up test must be completed prior to the return of the graded test to the class. Otherwise the missed test will count as a zero; and the final exam will be used to replace the missed test, as mentioned above.
- Regular homework problems will be recommended but not required or collected. Any special out-of-class assignments will count in addition to or in place of part or all of the class tests.
- Attendance in the lecture class will not count in the grade, but three consecutive classroom hours of unexcused absences or a total of six classroom hours of unexcused absences as reported by the instructor may result in a student being dropped from the rolls with a grade of “W”.
- *One special rule:* In order to pass this course, the student must pass both lecture and lab. This consists of a minimum 60% average in each.

Evaluation of Students:

The course grade will be determined as follows:

- Lab............................... 20%
- 5 Tests @ 14% each ......... 70%
- Final Exam ..................... 10%
- 100%

Course Schedule:

The class meets for 3 lecture hours and 3 laboratory hours each week for the duration of the semester.

Intellectual Competencies:

1. Reading - Understanding the material incorporated in the text used in this course will require the student to analyze and interpret various physical concepts.

2. Listening - The primary teaching methods used in this course are discussion and lecture. Understanding the oral presentation of material will require the student to analyze and interpret various physical concepts.

3. Critical Thinking - Critical thinking, as exemplified by problem solving, is inherent in the study of any scientific discipline. Physical problems will be considered, discussed, and analyzed in this course.
ADA Statement: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations.

Exemplary Objectives:

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<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>PHYS 1415</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Physical Science I</td>
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Competencies:

1. To understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of the natural sciences.

2. To recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and the other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.

3. To identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Tom O’Hara

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Office Hours:  
M 8:30 – 9 am; 11 – 12 pm; 6 – 7 pm  
T 8:30 – 9:30 am; 11 – 12 pm  
W 8:30 – 9 am; 11 – 12 pm; 6 – 7 pm  
Th 8:30 – 9:30 am; 11 – 12 pm  
F 8:30 – 9 am; 11 – 11:30 am

Division Dean: Dr. Margaret Wade (125 SF)  
Office Phone: 685-4615

Division Secretary: Ms. Norma Duran (124 SF)  
Office Phone: 685-4612  
Ms. Brenda Smith (108 SF)  
Office Phone: 685-6413