

Physical Science (CORE 2314)

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Course Website: <http://plaza.obu.edu/corneliusk/ps/>

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Course Description:

A core course designed to survey key concepts in physics and chemistry and see how they arise in everyday life. It is intended for students with very little background in science. The course addresses basic concepts, including the methods of science, motion and forces, chemical processes and the nature and properties of matter. The class also includes a laboratory meant to supplement the learning process and to practice skills in observation, data gathering, interpretation and evaluation.

Textbook:

Custom Text

Grading:

Grades will be determined from the following areas:

Homework:	30%
Tests:	45%
Labs:	25%

Grades will NOT be posted. Come see me anytime for your current grade.

A = 100% – 90% B = 89% – 80 % C = 79% – 70 % D = 69% – 60 % F < 60%

Tests:

It is my intention to have three tests to be given at various points during the semester over class notes and homework material in the following areas:

- Test 1 – Physics
- Test 2 – Physics & Chemistry
- Test 3 – Chemistry (*Taken as the Final*) [Tue., Dec 10th, 2:00 pm]

No work shown = no credit given.

Makeup exams will only be given in the most extreme of circumstances.

**** NOTE:** *A 3x5 note-card can be used on any test, but a 7% penalty will be deducted from your overall test score.*

Homework:

Homework will be assigned during one class period and posted on the class webpage. *It is the student's responsibility to regularly check the course website.* Homework Assignments will be due by 4:00 pm on the corresponding due date. In addition, **No work shown = no credit given** for problems which require computations.

Absences:

As stated in the OBU catalog, attendance is expected in all classes in which the student is enrolled. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to get the notes from another student.

No Class

There will be **NO** class on the following dates:

Labor Day: Sept. 2, **Fall Break:** Oct. 24 – 25, **Thanksgiving:** Nov 27 – 29.

Labs:

Twelve (12) laboratory experiments will be conducted during the semester during the designated 2 hour lab time slots. The lab schedule and manuals are available on our class webpage. You are expected to attend each lab and follow all safety rules and precautions at all times. There will be at least one make-up laboratory during the semester. Lab Reports will be due **BY** class-time the next day. You *cannot* turn in a lab report for a lab that you have missed! **Failure to attend and earn at least 60% on the laboratory portion of the course will result in automatic failure of the entire physical science course.**

Extra Credit Project:

A student can complete one of two possible projects for extra credit. A research paper of 6+ pages *or* an engineering project (*an egg drop*) can be completed and could add up to 5% to a student's overall test average. These projects can be completed by students working alone or in pairs. All projects must be okayed by the professor before the student begins. **DUE DATE: Friday, Nov. 15th @ 1 pm.**

Behavior & Cell Phone/Laptop Policy:

All students are expected to display courteous classroom behavior. This includes showing respect for the professor and students at all times. Percentage points can and will be deducted from students' grades who refuse to act as a mature college student should. Any individual who is caught using their cell phone during class or their laptop in an inappropriate way, the **CLASS** will receive **ONE** warning. After that, individual violations will result in the lowering of that person's class average by one letter grade.

Integrity:

Students at Ouachita are obligated to uphold the Covenant on Academic Honor, which reads in part, "I will refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, and I will act responsibly when confronted with the knowledge of such behavior." For the possible consequences of any violation of this covenant, please see **The Tiger Handbook**.

Disabilities:

Ouachita Baptist University is committed to extending access and opportunity to those who have disabilities. To request modifications or accommodations due to a disabling condition, or for a copy of the University policy concerning modifications or accommodations, contact Dan Jarboe, University Counselor and ADA/504 Coordinator, in the Student Services Office. The office is located in Evans Student Center and the telephone number is 245-5591. You may email the University Counselor and ADA/504 Coordinator at jarboed@obu.edu.

Tips for Success:

1. Read the textbook. This will provide a second presentation of the material covered in class.
2. Solve problems. Physics is a performance discipline just like athletics or music. It is not a subject that can be learned solely through reading, regular practice is required. Work through the examples for the current chapter in the textbook and as many additional odd numbered exercises at the end of each chapter as possible for which the answers are provided.
3. Get help. If you have tried steps one and two and are still having problems, get help. A tutoring schedule will be posted outside of the Physics Department offices. This service is free. Talk to your professor. Your difficulties are probably not as big as you think.
4. Turn in homework and labs on time. Some credit is better than none at all.
5. Take good notes. The tests are based on the class notes as well as homework.
6. For the ambitious students, recopy your notes after each lecture. Understanding may not come during class because information is coming hard and fast, but valuable insight often occurs as you go over the material again. This is also an excellent tool in preparing for tests.