

Science 1A SYLLABUS

Course # 58094

Fall 2015

M 5:00 – 7:50pm and Lab Class W 5:00 - 7:50pm

Instructor: Max Bright

** Office hours: MTW 11:30-1:00pm in HUM 61**

Virtual office hours: F Noon-1pm

Phone Number: 638 – 3641 ext. 3299

email: max.bright@reedleycollege.edu

Textbook: “Conceptual Physical Science”, Hewitt/Suchocki, 5th edition, Pearson Publisher

Course Objective: This course provides an investigation of basic principles of physics and Chemistry including matter, physical and chemical properties, energy, motion, light, atomic structure, bonding, solutions and chemical reactions. The inter-dependence of chemistry and physics will be emphasized. This course is intended for non-science majors.

Calendar: **Holidays:** Monday September 7th, Wednesday November 11th, Thursday and Friday the 26th and 27th of November

LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS: FRIDAY October 16th. AFTER THAT DATE, I MUST GIVE YOU A GRADE!!

Final Exam: Monday December 14th at 5 PM

Homework: Doing your homework assists you in two ways: 1) it helps you learn the material by practicing problem solving skills, and 2) it lifts your grade. Your homework is **15%** of your semester grade.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams and one final exam. The exams have conceptual questions that are multiple choice in format, and there may also be short response (1-3 sentences) problems that will need to be written. The exams contribute **25%** of your semester grade, so they are very important to prepare for.

Laboratory: This class has a lab that is mandatory. There will be lab worksheets due at the end of each session. The labs will constitute **15%** of your semester grade.

Participation: There are in-class activities that are graded on your participation. These activities are varied in type, and include computer simulations, problem solving sessions, and other activities that are designed to assist you in learning physics and chemistry, as well as assisting me in determining how well you are learning the material. Participation accounts for **15%** of your grade, so it is important that you are in class **AND** participate. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you are absent and will receive no participation points for the day.

Project: There are two projects, each worth 15%. You will provide a 7-12 minute lesson, with a lesson plan. This lesson can be a PowerPoint presentation, video, demonstration, or use handouts. The purpose is to explain a physical concept or process. You are free to choose what level of student the lesson is designed for (i.e. K-6, 7-8, 9-12, or community college), but must have a level appropriate lesson plan. Everyone will present during the last week of physics, and again, after the last week of Chemistry. You may work in groups, but you must additionally write a brief outline as to what individual contributions you and your group member(s) made.

Grading Policy:	90 – 100%	A	Homework	15%
	80 – 89%	B	Exams	25%
	65 – 79%	C	Labs	15%
	55 – 64%	D	Participation	15%
	0 – 54%	F	Project	30%

Student Conduct:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in the Classroom. Specific rules and regulations have been established in Board Policy 5410. Failure to adhere to the accepted standards will result in disciplinary action. Campus Policies on Student Conduct is described in Reedley College Class Schedule.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

Cheating and plagiarism is prohibited in the class. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism will result a failing grade on the particular examination or assignment in question.

Here are some helpful hints for getting the grade you want in this class:

Accept that physics and Chemistry are difficult topics to learn (although I happen to love physics), and that you will never take a harder class, ever. This being understood, if you follow my advice, you will have a good time and have a sense of accomplishment.

BE HERE, be on time, and ready to work. Physics and Chemistry are tough, and you need to work at it every day. Just as an athlete doesn't perform well in a competition after trying a sport once, so a physics student doesn't perform well on exams by doing a single problem.

Read your textbook BEFORE I go over the material in class. You will have difficulty reading the text. It's written in a language that is difficult to understand, called High Academic English. I will help you with this. You will need to know how to read this language, as you intend to make the big bucks when you grow up. I will help you learn how to get there. You will read the chapters about three times before the

exam. The first time, just skim the pages. Make a mental (or written) note of the questions that arise in your mind as you read. You should only spend about a half an hour reading before the class meets. You can catch me making mistakes (a good game for my students, they seem to love this...) and have lots of fun embarrassing me. You will also be prepared to ask questions during class.

Even if you can't get too far on your homework, try every problem. Work for 10–12 minutes on a problem, **THEN STOP**. Go to the next problem, and work for the same amount of time until you get to the end of the assignment. Do this as soon as the assignment is given. If you wait until the night before the assignment is due, you will be overwhelmed and unable to turn in good work, and your time will be wasted. If you begin the assignment as soon as it is given, in the manner described above, then you will know where you need help. You **will** need help. Some of us need less help than others, but everyone needs help while learning physics. Either come to see me, or go to the tutorial center to get help. The students who get an A from me are the ones who visit me in my office, and visit often. I will meet with you, even if you can't make it to my office at my appointed time. I am here to help you learn physics, and I will meet with you and help you.

Finally, be sure to ask me lots and lots of questions, no matter how stupid your question seems to you.