Syllabus for Physical Science PSCI-1030, Spring 2010
Topics in Physical Science

I. Instructor: Dr. Ngee Sing Chong; Campus phone: 898-5487; office: DSB 231
   Office hours: MW 8:10 - 9:10 a.m., T 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.; other hours by appointment.

II. Course Content: This course is designed to help meet the general studies requirement in science. It is an introductory course for non-science majors to learn the fundamental concepts of physical science including chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy. Topics in these areas will be introduced to help the students become scientifically literate and to develop a lifelong interest in science.


   Student Website which includes tutorials, practice tests, study goals and discussion, interactive visual connections, and solved problems is available at http://college.cengage.com/physicalscience/shipman/physsci/12e/student_home.html. Student must register at http://login.cengage.com/sso/login.do?app=hm using the access code provided by the publisher of the textbook.

IV. Course Requirements: Students MUST participate in the laboratory section of this course. Arrive on time for your lectures and labs. Safety goggles are required. Students are expected to follow ALL SAFETY RULES while in the laboratory. A scientific calculator will be needed for lecture, exams and laboratory. (One that can do exponential notation is helpful). NO GRAPHING OR PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATORS WILL BE PERMITTED FOR USE IN EXAMS. CHEATING IN EXAMS, QUIZZES AND LABS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

V. Attendance Policy: Good attendance and punctuality are highly recommended. Students are responsible for all lecture materials and class announcements under all circumstances including excused absences.

VI. Testing and Grading: There will be FOUR tests that accounts for 70% of the grade. The laboratory accounts for 20% of the grade, which are composed of eleven labs and the lowest lab grade dropped. You will receive zero on every lab missed. You must pass the lab in order to pass the course. A failing grade for the laboratory means that you will receive a grade of “F” for the course. The assignment accounts for 10% of the grade. D2L online quizzes will be graded for bonus points that are worth up to 20 points and added to your final test score. The grading scale for your score is as follows: A for >= 87%; B for 73 %-86%; C for 59% - 72%; D for 45% - 58%; and F for < 45%. The plus/minus grading scale will be used for “B” and “C” grades. Your attendance record will be used to determine if you are eligible for being boosted into the next higher grade interval if your score is within 1% of the cutoff for grade distribution or being allowed to have the best 3 of 4 tests prorated accordingly.

Course Grade: [Exam Average (%) x 0.70] + [Assignment (%) x 0.10] + [Lab Grade (%) x 0.20] + Bonus

VII. Tentative Outline:

| Jan. 15 – Feb. 5 (Ch. 1-3) | Exam. 1 – Feb. 8 |
| Feb. 10 – Feb. 22 (Ch. 5 & 10) | Exam. 2 – Feb. 26 |
| Mar. 1 – Mar. 26 (Ch 11- 13) | Exam. 3 – Mar. 29 |
VIII. Important Dates:  
**Jan. 27** - Last day to drop without a grade  
**Mar. 3** - Last day to drop with a “W”

IX. Policy for Make-up Test:  
Make-up test will be given for circumstances beyond the students’ control, and can only be taken **before or after** the regular test prior to the posting or class discussion of answers to the test. There are no make-up opportunities for in-class quizzes.

X. Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:  
If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodation for testing, note takers, readers, etc., you **MUST** contact the Office of Disabled Students Services (898-2783) and then speak with me as soon as possible.

XI. Course Homepage:  
Select the PSCI1030 course homepage at the following weblinks:  
http://www.mtsu.edu/~nchong/Main.html or http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11233/Main.html

Lottery Scholarship Eligibility and Expectations

To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Additional Lottery rules are on the web at http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm, or provided by the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR TO ACCOMMODATE INSTRUCTIONAL AND/OR STUDENT NEEDS.