



**IS352.710 Science Inquiry
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015**

Instructor: Melinda Ludwig

Office Location: N/A

Office Hours: 4:00-5:00 p.m. Tues./Thurs.

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See alternate e-mail address in Communication and Support section, page 2.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Texts: REVIEWING SCIENCE – 2nd Edition (Cohen, Deutsch, Sorrentino – 2009)
Aquatic WILD Manual

Additional materials: pencils, map colors, rigid metric ruler, scissors, calculator.

Course Description:

Science Inquiry is a course with minimal lecture. The bulk of the course consists of a variety of hands-on, inquiry science activities that target science instruction in grades Pre-K through 8.

Student Outcomes:

1. Through participation in the inquiry science activities, students will gain experience and knowledge that will help them in preparation for the science section of the TExES exam.
2. Students will gain practical and interesting science knowledge and skills appropriate for science instruction in grades Pre-K through 8.
3. Students will increase their own science literacy by participating in the inquiry science activities.
4. Students will gain experience in cooperative learning techniques, which are used as part of teaching science as inquiry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

“This course consists of a selection of hands-on, inquiry science activities from a variety of disciplines/sources and is designed to enhance your skills in teaching science to elementary and middle school students. Each day you will participate with members of your group in completing a selection of inquiry science activities.”

Grading

Grading Scale: (90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; Below 60% = F)

Class Participation.....	10%
(Begin with 100 points; 10 points deducted for each absence, regardless of reason.)	
Lab Reports/Homework (Average of all grades).....	40%
(Lab Reports will be primarily group reports; homework is individual.)	
Three Major Exams (each one worth 10%).....	30%
FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE).....	20%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

N/A

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

You may contact me via e-mail (LudwMlud@aol.com) concerning anything related to the course in which you are enrolled. I will respond to your e-mail in a timely manner.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy:

Texas A&M University – Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), **cheating on exams or other course assignments**, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Disciplinary action for these offenses may include any combination of the following:

1. Point deduction on an assignment.
2. Failure for an assignment.
3. A grade of zero for an assignment.
4. Failure for the course.
5. Referral to the Academic Integrity Committee or department head for further action.
6. Referral to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Business and Technology, Arts and Sciences, or Graduate School as appropriate.
7. Referral to the University Discipline Committee.
8. Communication of student's behavior to the Teacher Certification Office and/or Dean of the College of Education as constituting a reason to bar the student from entering into or continuing in a teacher certification program. Procedures A 13.04, 13.12, 13.31, and 13.32.

Examination Policy

There will be three major exams. Format of each test will include objective items, short answer items, and essay items that address higher level thinking skills. Tests will be taken after all lab work is turned in.

Tests will consist of two parts:

- 1) A laboratory-based part with items that focus on the lab activities completed since the last test. This part will be completed by the group. Any printed resource can be used for assistance with this part. (40 points)**
- 2) A general content part with items that focus on material from the texts, additional reading assignments, videos, and any other material used or discussed in class. This part is completed by each individual student without the use of printed or electronic resources. (60 points)**

The total number of points per test is 100.

Attendance Policy:

It is the prerogative of the instructor to drop students from courses in which they have accrued excessive absences (three or more). However, a student wishing to drop the course should do so. Failure to do so may result in a failing grade for the course.

You are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time. Late arrival may result in a 5 point deduction from your class participation grade.

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR LAB ACTIVITIES THAT YOU MISS, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON. A ZERO WILL BE RECORDED FOR ANY LAB ACTIVITY MISSED BECAUSE OF ABSENCE, REGARDLESS OF REASON. YOU ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF TESTS OR LAB ACTIVITIES THAT YOU MISS. YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH GROUP MEMBERS ABOUT CONTENT AND DATA COLLECTED.

IF YOU MISS A MAJOR EXAM AND HAVE A DOCUMENTED, LEGITIMATE REASON, YOU MUST CONSULT THE INSTRUCTOR TO AGREE ON A DATE AND TIME TO MAKE UP THE EXAM. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL DECIDE IF YOUR REASON IS LEGITIMATE. ALL MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE IN ESSAY FORMAT.

BEST ADVICE: SHOW UP ON TIME!

Additional Requirements:

1. All work submitted for grading must be done in pencil. Any drawings/diagrams that involve color must be done with map pencils. No pens or markers. Up to 5 points will be deducted from the grade if ink/marker is used.
 2. All numerical answers must include the unit. The answer will be marked wrong, if there is no unit.
 3. Any straight lines used in a lab report must be drawn with a rigid ruler. Up to 5 points will be deducted from the grade if no ruler is used for straight lines.
 4. No food allowed in the lab classroom. Drinks in cups with lids or drinks in bottles are allowed.
 5. **You should dress as if you were in your own classroom at school. Extremes in dress are not consistent with the professional atmosphere in a public/private school. Remember that you are not only your students' teacher, you are also their role model.**
 6. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** must be turned off in class, with the following exceptions:
 - a) You may use the calculator function if the lab activity requires calculations.
 - b) You may use the timer function if the lab activity requires timing.
 - c) You may use the light function if the lab activity has an illumination requirement and a light source is not already provided.
- NOTE:** You may not use your electronic device to take photos/videos of class activities to post on social media. There are potential copyright and liability issues.
7. **Do not use "texting language" to provide a written answer to a question or to explain observations or processes. A response written in "texting language" will be judged incorrect, and points will be removed.**
 8. **You may not bring your children to class. There are liability and safety issues that must be respected.**

****NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ANY COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICY/PROCEDURE IF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST, AND THE INSTRUCTOR WILL DETERMINE THE DEFINITION OF "extraordinary".**

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Internship Requirements:

All students applying for internship must attend a mandatory meeting the semester prior to the internship beginning. If you are interning in the fall, the meeting will be in January. If you are interning in the spring, the meeting will be in August.

All students must complete an application for internship. Students must meet the following requirements:

- a) Reading THEA score of 250 or Accuplacer Reading Score of 88 or COMPASS reading score of 90 or ACT score of 23 or SAT Verbal score of 550.
- b) Math THEA of 230, ACT score of 19 or SAT Math Score of 500, grade of C or better in College Algebra.
- c) Writing THEA of 220, grade of C or better in College English
- d) 2.75 GPA overall
- e) 2.5 GPA Interdisciplinary Studies Courses
- f) 2.5 GPA Specialization Courses
- g) 2.5 GPA Professional Development Courses
- h) Completion of all of the following courses: ELED 200, 300, RDG 350, 360,370, PSY 300, 310, SPED 346, IS351 OR 352, MATH 350
- i) Students may not lack more than 9 hours on entering internship. The following may be lacking: MusArtThe 305, one of the IS courses, Math 351, 1 specialization course. All other courses must be complete.
- j) Failure to meet the above requirements will result in not entering internship on time.
- k) Students will not be permitted to take the generalist exam, if they are missing content courses.

Graduation – All students should meet with their advisor 1 semester prior to graduation to ensure that all requirements are met.

Completion of all requirements for degree (check degree evaluation for errors)
Successful completion of JLE (see advisor)

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

You are expected to conduct yourself as a responsible adult. You are expected to show respect to the instructor and to your classmates. Behavior that deviates from this model and that disrupts the educational process can result in your removal from the class.

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DISCLAIMER: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced by the instructor in class, on ecollege, or via email. Students who do not attend class, log into ecollege, or check their email assume full responsibility for missing changes to the course.

Date(s)	Activities	Assignments for next class session	Student Outcomes Addressed
9/3	Introduction to Course Begin Rice Experiment Introduction to Aquatic WILD Program “Walk Through the Guide” Activity – Aqua Words, pp. 69-71 Activity – Are You Me?, pp. 2-4	Read pp. 61-67 and pp. 93-96 in <u>Reviewing Science</u> . Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 67-69 and 97-98. Due at beginning of next class.	1,2,3,4
9/10	Check Rice Experiment #1 Review forms of energy and properties of light and the spectrum. LAB – Mirror, Mirror* LAB – Sunshine on My Shoulders*, including UV activities	Read pp. 153-159 and pp. 186-189 in <u>Reviewing Science</u> . Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 160-161 and p. 190. Due next class.	1,2,3,4
9/17	Check Rice Experiment #2 Video Clip: DNA Structure/Function <u>Brief Discussion</u> – Basics of Genetics and Founder Mutations LAB – Isolate DNA from a Strawberry and Human Genetics Survey LAB – Lactose Intolerance	Read pp. 192-193 in <u>Reviewing Science</u> . Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 193-194. Due at beginning of next class. STUDY FOR TEST #1	1,2,3,4
9/24	Check Rice Experiment #3 Discuss Evolutionary Theory and Natural Selection. Video: How Does Evolution Work? LAB – Bird Beaks and Natural Selection and Beaks are for the Birds* Take Test #1 after Labs are finished.	Read pp. 75-78 and pp.246-250 in Aquatic WILD manual.	1,2,3,4
10/1	Check Rice Experiment #4 Video clips on Salt Marshes/Estuaries and Sea Turtles Activity – Marsh Munchers Activity – Turtle Hurdles (outside) Discuss GLOBE at Night – Pegasus www.globeatnight.org	Read Handouts on the Nervous System and the Senses. Finish Rice Journal	1,2,3,4
10/8	Turn in Rice Journal. Discuss human nervous system. Class Activity – Circle of Nerves LAB – Exploring the Senses 1. Are You a Supertaster? 2. The Nose Knows 3. a-MAZE-ing Memories 4. Tunnel of Light 5. Color Match/Retinal Fatigue 6. Sound Baggies 7. Animal Ears	Read pp. 221-236 in <u>Reviewing Science</u> . Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 227-228 and pp. 236-240. Due next class. Read handout on Barn Owls.	1,2,3,4

10/15	<p>Video Clip on collecting and analyzing owl pellets. <u>Discuss</u> trophic levels, food chains, food webs. LAB – Owl Pellet Dissection and Analysis LAB – Mystery Pellets* (elementary level) Activity on Plastics pollution and effect on marine animals, specifically the Laysan Albatross. Turn in GLOBE at Night sheet.</p>	<p>Read pp. 175-179 and pp. 206-211 in Aquatic WILD Manual. Read handout on Water Quality. NOTE: We will go to the campus pond to investigate and gather data on a Riparian Zone and do water quality testing on a sample of pond water. Dress for outside.</p>	1,2,3,4
10/22	<p>Discuss Riparian Zones and Water Quality Parameters. Walk to the campus pond. Investigate and describe the area. Collect a sample of pond water, and perform the tests for pH, Nitrogen, Ammonia, and Dissolved Oxygen on the water sample, using the Pond Water Tour Kit. Return to class to finish the activities.</p>	<p>Read pp. 91-98 and pp. 108-111 in Aquatic WILD Manual. STUDY FOR TEST #2</p>	1,2,3,4
10/29	<p>Activity: Micro-Odyssey Activity – Pond Succession/ Modeling Pond Succession (Set it up) Take Test #2 after Lab Reports are turned in.</p>	<p>Read pp. 257-260 in <u>Reviewing Science</u>. Complete Review Questions, <u>Parts 1 & 2</u>, on pp. 261-263. Due next class.</p>	1,2,3,4
11/5	<p>Check Model Pond #1 Discuss Fossils/Radioactive Dating Activity – Making a plaster cast of a fossil. LAB – Observations and Analysis of Fossil Specimens.</p>	<p>Read “Dating Rocks” on p. 209 in <u>Reviewing Science</u>.</p>	1,2,3,4
11/12	<p>Check Pond Model #2 Review Radioactive Dating LAB – Decay of “Headsium” LAB - Mysteries of the Past* Begin Moon Journal</p>	<p>Read pp. 273-277 in <u>Reviewing Science</u>. Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 278-279. Due next class. Study for TEST #3</p>	1,2,3,4
11/19	<p>Check Pond Model #3 Review weathering and erosion. LAB – Stream Table Investigations Take Test #3 after Lab Report is turned in.</p>	<p>Read pp. 98-100 in Aquatic WILD Manual. “Fashion a Fish” activity.</p>	1,2,3,4
11/26	<p>Thanksgiving Holiday</p>	<p>See 11/19 above.</p>	N/A
12/3	<p>Check Pond Model #4 Review characteristics and inhabitants of Riparian Zones. Activity – Fashion a Fish</p>	<p>Read Chapter 2, pp. 60-100 in <u>Reviewing Science</u>. Complete Review Questions, Part 1, on pp. 67-69, 73-74, 84-85, 90-91, 97-</p>	1,2,3,4

		98. Due next class.	
12/10	Turn in Pond booklet. Discuss Forms of Energy Rotation Lab – Investigating Energy Turn in Moon Journal	STUDY FOR FINAL EXAM	
12/17	FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE)	N/A	N/A

***Activities from Picture Perfect Science Lessons.**

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE BOOKS REFERENCED:

The Sun is my Favorite Star by F. Asch

DNA is Here to Stay by Dr. Fran Balkwill

Beaks by Sneed B. Collard, III

Hello, Red Fox by Eric Carle

Butternut Hollow Pond by Brian J. Heinz

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs! By Kathleen Kudlinski