IS 1315 – Integrated Science I

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2025

Class Time & Location: This course is fully online and has no required meeting time. It doesn't mean you can slack off, though.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kurtis A. Williams, Professor & Department Head
Preferred Pronouns: He/him/his
Office Location: Room 106A, McFarland Science Building
Have questions? Need help? Contact me by email and we'll find a time to talk by Zoom or phone or text.
University Email Address: Kurtis.Williams@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: email**
Office Phone: (903) 886-5488
Communication Response Time: Before the end of the following business day

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

NO Textbook Required

However, if you aren't familiar with the topics we are talking about, you may want to think about getting a cheap copy or etext of the book the course is based on: **Conceptual Integrated Science, 3rd edition, by Hewitt, Lyons, Suchocki & Yeh. ISBN: 978-0135197394.**
The 2nd edition is fine, too. You cheapest option might be to rent the eText from the publisher for $8.49/month. Publisher website: https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/conceptual-integrated-science/P200000007010/9780135626573.

Again, no textbook is required.

Hardware/Software Required
- No special hardware or software is required, but you must have access to a computer (laptop or desktop preferred; mobile devices sometimes have

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problems), an internet connection, and some sort of productivity software such as Microsoft Office, Google Docs, or Libre Office.

Course Description

Hours: 3
This is a University Studies science course. The interdisciplinary application of scientific principles is emphasized. The scientific principles developed in this course include astronomy, motion, energy, Earth science, and other topics typically covered in physical science courses. Connections and applications of these principles to the other sciences are examined.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will gain a better understanding of concepts in Physics and Astronomy.
- Students will better understand scientific processes and test for further scientific knowledge.
- Students will understand the conceptual differences between facts, theories, and laws.
- Students will be able to compare the separate science disciplines and make integrative connections.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need computer access to complete various assignments. Throughout this course, students will be using tools and technology to complete assignments and virtual labs. **Important**: Being an online course there is an assumption that participating students have the basic computer skills needed to complete online assignments in myLeo online (D2L). In addition, a working (virus-free) computer and a stable internet connection is required for this course. The student is responsible for completing all assignments on time. **Any problems with computer equipment and/or internet connection (except for D2L downtime) are not acceptable excuses for missing or late assignments.**

Instructional Methods

Overall Organization
Summer classes are *fast* and require us to squeeze a lot of stuff into a short amount of time. Summer students often tell me I don't HAVE to cover as much in the summer as I do in the fall or spring, but state law says that I DO have to cover the same amount. Unless you can get me a signed letter from the governor that I can take it easy on y'all, we must work hard and fast.

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This class is divided up into weekly modules. Each module lasts about a week (duh!) and covers set of major themes in the course. Each module has a pre-test and a post-test.

Each module is subdivided into units, each of which covers a single major topic. Each unit has its own assignments such as reading, videos, discussions, and online labs. You can do the units within each module in any order, but it'll make more sense if you go in order.

Let's look at the parts of a module and unit in a bit more detail:

Pre-test
Each module starts with a pre-test. The goal here is to see what you know before you start the module. It's perfectly normal to not know much! These are graded on completion, not on the number you get right. Try to answer every question and you will pass. Don't take the pre-test or only do some questions, you fail. After the course I will compare your pre-test and post-test scores to get an idea of how well the class worked overall at teaching you, but this comparison will not affect your grade.

Reading
Each unit will have reading, usually in the form of lecture notes and PowerPoint slides. Sometimes you may see a few other short articles I may post. I'd encourage you to read these using a reading comprehension strategy such as SQ3R (link to more info on D2L). Reading and comprehending science textbooks requires thought and multiple read-throughs; methods like SQ3R are annoying at first (who likes to be constrained by a structured approach?), but they really do work!

Online Labs
After you've done the reading in a unit, I may post one or more online lab assignments. These lab assignments often require Java, which is not automatically installed on many computers or mobile devices. In D2L under the Course Home module there are instructions, guides, and other links to help you to get the lab to work. You might have to futz with your computer a bit, but you are grown humans and I know you have the ability to do this!

Labs usually require you to take a screenshot of the lab to prove that you did it and to upload some answers to questions in a Word .docx or PDF format.

Homework
Units may have a written assignment that requires you to answer a question about a topic within the unit.

Tutorials and Discussions

Many (but not all) units will also have discussion boards for you to ask and answer questions about that unit's topics. Student Discussion boards are for you to talk to each other and ask questions you have about the material; a rubric will be posted that shows

how these discussions are graded. Questions to the Professor are for those questions that you aren't satisfied with the other students' answers to, or that may be off topic. You are not required to ask me any questions. If you want to have a private discussion with me, email is the best way.

Quasi-Quizzes

Each unit will have a quasi-quiz. This is a short (10-ish question) quiz with questions based on the material in the unit. Some will be easy, some will be tougher. To pass the quasi-quiz you need to get an 80% on the quasi-quiz, but you have up to three attempts to do so! If you don't get an 80%, you will see which questions you got wrong. This will let you go review your reading, notes, videos, etc. before you try again.

Post-tests

At the end of each weekly module there will be a post-test. You'll be given questions covering all units in that module, mostly multiple choice or matching or true and false, and one short-answer thought question I'll have to grade by hand. This exam is timed – it is long enough that if you know the material you will have gobs of time left, but not long enough for you to try and find answers for each question in D2L or the textbook.

You only get one attempt at the post-test. Most students who've done all the work in the module do well enough on the post-tests that you'll get decent course grades, even if you bomb one exam.

For all exams, you may use a "cheat sheet" of 8.5x11 inch paper in size (or smaller) with whatever hand-written information you'd like, your textbook, and anything posted on D2L. No other books, backpacks, calculators, computers, AI, friends, frenemies, phones, tablets, ESP, etc. will be permitted.

If you are certified as needing special accommodations for examinations, please see me privately well before the exam with you letter of accommodation from the Student Disability Services office.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit is offered in this online course. If you do all the assignments with a reasonable amount of effort, you won't need it.

How to Earn an A or B in This Course

Students who do well in this course share most of the following common habits:
- Set aside at least five days each week with two hours per day to work on the course. The hours don't need to be consecutive, but treat those hours like you would hours on the job or appointments with a doctor. Reward yourself afterwayd
- Do the reading using a system like SQ3R.
- Watch all videos all the way through.
- Complete assignments early in each module so you have time to get help on topics you're struggling with.

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- Asking for help and advice early in each unit (do the reading and watch the videos first, then ask questions!)
- Take responsibility for your grade – check it often.

GRADING

Grades in this course are based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Grading is on an absolute scale with no competition. If you all earn an A, you all get an A. I may curve grades for specific assignments at my discretion; your percentage earned will never go down if I apply such a curve. Your current grades are available through the gradebook on D2L – look for "Total Calculated Grade." The gradebook on Smartwork is _not_ official.

Grades are based on a weighted system. The categories and weights are:
- Pre-tests: 15%
- Online Labs and Homework Assignments: 35%
- Tutorials and discussion questions: 20%
- Quasi-Quizzes: 15%
- Post-tests: 15%

Interaction with Instructor

Email:

I can be reached by email at Kurtis.Williams@etamu.edu. It may take me up to 24 hours to send you a response. If you don't hear back from me in that time, please send another email or give me a call.

Notice: If you are having trouble with an assignment and email me within 24 hours of the deadline, I might not be able to get back to you before the assignment is due. Late penalties will not normally be waived in these cases.

Course Announcements:

Announcements and important course updates will be posted on MyLeo Online, and I expect you will read those within a reasonable time frame. You can set up SMS or email notifications of new announcements, as well as many other course updates, through MyLeo Online. Click on your name at the top of the page and select "Notifications" from the resulting menu.

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Social Media:

Please don't follow me on other social media until after you've graduated. It's not all that exciting anyway.

Assignment and Due Date Policy

Links to assignments and due dates will be posted in the main page for each unit. Submission requirements for each assignment are given on each assignment's page.

Dropping the Course

You may drop this course by logging into your myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Incompletes

I only offer incompletes in extraordinary circumstances. Any student interested in an incomplete should contact me as soon as possible after the situation arises, and should keep in mind that I am not required to give you an incomplete and so may not offer you the opportunity.

Technical Issues

Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a coffee shop, etc.

Administrative Withdrawal

Although I have the right to drop you for excessive absences, I won't do so. You have a right to get an F if you decide to quit working but don't withdraw.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

How to Get Started

myLEO Online Access Information

This course uses D2L (myLeo Online), the learning management system at East Texas A&M. All materials, assignments, and resources will be made available through this system. To access this course, go to: http://myleoonline.tamuc.edu. Log in with your myLEO account and password. Then click on the link https://myleoonline.tamuc.edu/d2l/home/189972 to get to our course.

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How This Course Is Organized

This course is organized by modules and units. Each module lasts roughly one week but cover multiple units. You should check the course page on MyLeo Online often to see what activities and assignments are coming due.

What Should You Do First?

After attending class and reading this syllabus, you should proceed to the course page on D2L and complete the activities and assignments under "Things to Do First."

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

1st Module: Science and Motion
- Unit 1: About Science
- Unit 2: Describing Motion
- Unit 3: Newton's Laws of Motion
- **Due Date: Sunday July 13 at 11:59pm Central Daylight Time**

2nd Module: Energy and Gravity
- Unit 4: Momentum and Energy
- Unit 5: Gravity
- **Due Date: Sunday, July 20 at 11:59pm**

3rd Module: Heat, Electricity, and Waves
- Unit 6: Heat
- Unit 7: Electricity and Magnetism
- Unit 8: Waves
- **Due Date: Sunday July 27 at 11:59pm**

4th Module: Astronomy
- Unit 9: The Solar System
- Unit 10: The Universe
- Unit 11: Life in the Universe
- **Due Date: Sunday August 3 at 11:59pm**

5th Module: Student's Choice (you choose the topic!)
- **Due Date: Wednesday August 7 at 11:59pm**

Important Class Dates:
- **July 7: First Day of Class**
- July 10: Last day to drop class with 100% refund
- July 28: Last Day to Drop Class with no refund
- **August 7: Last Day of Class**

NO FINAL EXAM: HURRAY!!!

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic integrity

A major goal of this and most every university course is for you to learn and appreciate subject material. Academic dishonesty ("cheating") actively prevents you from achieving this goal. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously by the University and by me, and ***will not be tolerated.*** (See the ETAMU Code of Student Conduct and the TAMU-C Procedures A 13.04, 13.12, 13.31, and 13.32.)

This conduct is not only considered wrong in this course and at this University, but also in the real world. Engaging in these activities will get you fired from a job and prevent you from getting another job.

Unethical student conduct includes:
- **Unauthorized use of generative AI**. Generative AI tools should not be used for any purpose in this class unless you are explicitly told to use them. It is generally a bad idea anyway, because the training sets that are used by generative AI are full of inaccurate scientific information. Generative AI is meant to produce text or images that simulate English speech, and they are quite good at this. They have little or no ability at fact checking.
- **Plagiarism**, or copying the words of others with the intent of making it look like your own. Whether you use someone else's phrase word for word, or whether you try and change a few words, or even if you just borrow someone else's original idea and don't give them credit, that's unethical. Use your own words whenever possible, give credit to wherever you got an idea, and put direct quotes inside quotation marks.
- **Cheating** involves trying to trick me or others into thinking you did work that you really didn't do, or into thinking you know what you really don't know. This can include stealing exams, changing your answers on a graded exam or assignment and claiming it was graded wrongly, putting your name on someone else's homework, and so on.
- **Searching the Internet for homework solutions and entering answers you find**. Searching the Internet for help on a topic is okay. For example, suppose a question asks, "Describe the life cycle of a star that has the same mass as the sun." Typing that phrase into Google and cutting and pasting the text in the answer box is considered cheating. Typing "star life cycles" into Google, reading a few web pages, and summarizing the information in your own words is not cheating.
- **Borrowing a previous student's homework, exams, or solution sets**. "Borrowing" includes looking at someone's submitted homework, screen shots, stealing returned homeworks, and so on.
- **Collusion** is working with another person to cheat. This can include copying someone else's answers to an exam or assignment, doing work for another student, buying or otherwise obtaining homework/exam solutions from any

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source online or off-line, or any other instance of multiple people engaging in some form of cheating or dishonesty. Working with other students on an assignment is fine <u>as long as</u> everyone contributes and each student does their own work.

- **<u>Any other activity that, to a reasonable person, looks wrong</u>.** If you have any doubt whatsoever whether a certain action is considered dishonest, please ask me *before* engaging in the activity. There is no need to be embarrassed about asking, and I won't penalize you for asking! In this class, if you follow the maxim "it's easier to beg forgiveness than to ask permission", don't expect forgiveness to be forthcoming.

If you engage in academic dishonesty during any graded activity, you will receive no credit for that activity. More than one instance of dishonesty by a student will result in automatic failure of the course and referral of the student for disciplinary action.

For further information, search the East Texas A&M website for "academic integrity policy".

D2L provides me with tools that check for common forms of online cheating and collusion. These include, but aren't limited to: time stamps, location stamps, and automated comparison of essay answers. I will use these tools.

Sexual Harassment and Violence

Violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc.

If you or someone you know is a victim of harassment, stalking, domestic violence, sexual assault, or related crimes, has been harassed or assaulted, here are some resources for you:

24/7 Resources

- National Domestic Awareness Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7223)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988

Campus Resources

- **Call 911 in emergency situations**
- If you or someone you know has been impacted and needs support, email: VictimSupport@etamu.edu (monitored Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm)
- Victim Advocacy and Support: https://www.tamuc.edu/student-advocacy-support/victim-support-services/
- How to Help and Report: https://www.tamuc.edu/student-advocacy-support/victim-support-services/

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- How to Report Concerns About a Fellow Student:
  https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCommerce&layout_id=20
- University Title IX Compliance Office: https://www.tamuc.edu/titleix/
- University Title IX Contact: Amanda Berry, 903-886-5991, titleix@etamu.edu
- University Police Department Sexual Assault pages:
  https://www.tamuc.edu/university-police-department/crime-prevention/
- University Counseling Center: https://www.tamuc.edu/counseling-center/
- Campus police email: upd@etamu.edu

External resources:

Crisis center of Northeast Texas: http://www.ccnetx.org
Know your IX: http://knowyourix.org
End rape on campus: http://endrapeoncampus.org
Clery Center for Security on Campus: http://clerycenter.org
Not Alone: http://changingourcampus.org/about-us/not-alone/

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01:
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

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[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf)

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- 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
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC)

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46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.tamuc.edu/counsel**

AI use policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors 'guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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