

Physical Science Syllabus

Mr. Denniston

Class Policies

Classroom Behavior:

I have only one rule regarding classroom behavior: Show respect. This includes respecting other students, the teacher, the room, and the equipment. Respect includes not talking while someone else is talking, not laughing at other student's questions, etc.

Materials for class:

loose leaf paper	writing utensils
3-ring binder	calculator

Cell Phones:

Cell phones should be kept out of sight in my classroom. If your cell phone rings during class, or if you are observed texting or making a call, you will be disciplined according to school policy.

Cheating:

Students caught cheating on an assignment, test, etc., will receive between 0 and 50% of the possible points for the activity, to be determined at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance

Absences:

1. You are responsible for picking up any homework, making up quizzes &/ or tests, and turning in any assignments that were collected while you were gone.
2. It is your responsibility to schedule a time before or after school or possibly during PPT to make up quizzes or tests.
3. If you miss a lab, you will not be able to make up the lab. Rather, the score that you receive on the next lab for which you are present will apply to the missed lab as well.
4. Missed notes should be obtained from a classmate.
5. Ask me about missing assignments either before or after class, not during class time.

Assignments & Absences:

1. Extension time will be granted for excused absences only.
2. Students will have two days after the excused absence to turn in missed assignments.
3. If there is a special circumstance surrounding an absence or you know in advance you will be absent, please see me.

Tests

As shown below, tests and quizzes will account for 65% of a student's term (9 week) grade. Tests are weighted heavily so that a student's grade reflects what the student truly knows, rather than how much homework they can complete (or copy).

My goal is for all students to gain at least a basic, fundamental knowledge of the subject they are studying. With this in mind, on one test per mid-term (4 ½ weeks) I allow students who score below a 70% on a test to take a re-test. Prior to taking the re-test a student must show me how they are planning to improve their score. I require them to show me an active form of studying, such as making a concept map, creating flash cards, completing a task using PLATO, etc. The re-test consists of questions designed to assess the basic knowledge of the subject and does not contain higher-level application questions like those on the original test. If a student scores above 80% on the re-test, I will replace their original test score with a 70%.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted unless it is late due to an excused absence (see above). However, each student will be allowed one "late-work coupon" per mid-term (4 ½ weeks). This coupon allows you to turn in an assignment one day late for full credit.

Grading

Scale:

A = 100- 94

B+ = 89 – 87

C+ = 79 – 77

D+= 69 – 67

F < 60

A- = 93 – 90

B = 86 – 83

C = 76 – 73

D = 66 – 63

B- = 82 – 80

C- = 72 – 70

D- = 62 – 60

Breakdown of Term (9 Week) Grades:

Tests & Quizzes = 65%

Laboratory work = 15%

Homework = 15%

Participation = 5%

Includes lab write-ups,
mini-labs, and lab
worksheets

Includes worksheets,
packets, questions
assigned, video
summaries, projects

Includes preparedness
for class, lab
participation, discussion
participation

Final term (9 week) grades are determined as follows:

Final Term Grade	
Term grade	95.0%
End of Term Exam	5.0 %

Tentative Course Outline

Unit 1 – introduction

Unit 2 – matter

Unit 3 – atomic structure

Unit 4 – structure of matter

Unit 5 – chemical reactions

Unit 6 – solutions, acids, and bases

Unit 7 – nuclear science

Unit 8 – motion and force

Unit 9 – work, power, and simple machines

Unit 10 – energy

Unit 11 – heat and temperature

Unit 12 – waves

Unit 13 - sound and light

Unit 14 – electricity