# PSCI - Physical Science

PSCI 103 - Physical Science (4)

The processes and natural laws that control our physical environment are investigated. Emphasis is on laboratory experiment. Lecture and laboratory. Students cannot receive credit for both PSCI 103 and PHYS 101-PHYS 102. 6 contact hours.

General Education Category: Natural Science.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PSCI 204 - Understanding the Physical Universe (4)

Fundamental principles in physical science such as force, energy, cycles and the structure of matter are introduced and used to investigate varied applications and current issues in the physical sciences. 5 contact hours.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

Prerequisite: BIOL 100 and MATH 144 or consent of instructor.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PSCI 207 - Introduction to Environmental Chemistry (3)

The flow of material and energy through the Earth system is introduced. Principles of element cycles, climate science, and coastal processes are also investigated.

Offered: Annually.

PSCI 208 - Forensic Science (4)

Students learn about modern forensic techniques used in crime scene analysis. Emphasis is on the methods used to collect and interpret crime scene data.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

Prerequisite: Any Mathematics or Natural Science.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PSCI 211 - Introduction to Astronomy (4)

Our solar system, the sun and other stars, galaxies, and the universe are explored. Astronomical phenomena are explained using basic physical principles. Lecture and laboratory.

General Education Category: Natural Science.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PSCI 212 - Introduction to Geology (4)

Focus is on the structure and composition of the earth and the processes that have shaped the earth. Topics include minerals, origin of magma, volcanic activity, and weathering and soil formation. Lecture and laboratory.

General Education Category: Natural Science.

Offered: Fall, Summer.

PSCI 214 - Introduction to Meteorology (4)

This class focuses on the structure, composition and phenomena of the atmosphere. Students examine local and global scale weather patterns, and century to millennial scale climate change.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

Prerequisite: Completion of any mathematics or natural science general education distribution.

Offered: Fall.

PSCI 217 - Introduction to Oceanography (4)

Topics include mapping the sea floor, formation of the ocean basins, sediments as recorders of ocean history, the composition and physical properties of seawater, ocean circulation, El Ninos, waves, and tides. Lecture and laboratory.

General Education Category: Natural Science.

Offered: Spring.

PSCI 262 - Space: The Final Frontier (4)

Students explore the cultural impacts on the imagination of space, the science and technological discoveries for space science, and how space has fueled science fiction literature, film and popular culture.

General Education Category: Connections.

Prerequisite: FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PSCI 357 - Historical and Contemporary Contexts of Science (3)

The development of science and technology is explored through case histories from the physical, biological, and environmental sciences. 4 contact hours.

Prerequisite: Any Natural Science course.

Offered: As needed.

PSCI 490 - Directed Study in Physical Science (3)

Designed to be a substitute for a traditional course under the instruction of a faculty member. A particular area of physical science is studied on the basis of the interest of the student and the instructor.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor, department chair and dean.

Offered: As needed.

PSCI 491-493 - Research in Physical Science (1)

The student conducts original research in an area selected after consultation with the instructor and prepares a report of their work. A maximum of 6 credit hours may be earned in these courses.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor, department chair and dean.

Offered: As needed.