

Physical Science

Physical science is the study of the nature and properties of energy and nonliving matter. "Matter" is the scientific term for anything that has mass and volume. There are two sub-categories in physical science: natural science and earth science. Natural science includes the study of astronomy, chemistry and physics; whereas earth science includes geology and natural history. A basic understanding of physical science is needed for study of the applied sciences (such as computer science and engineering) and life sciences (such as biology and ecology).

Courses

PH 114 Natural Science-Physical: 4 semester hours

This course is designed for students whose major interests lie outside the field of science. It provides a basis for appreciating the contributions of science to modern society through the development of an understanding of some of the basic laws and theories of physics, chemistry, and astronomy. No previous chemistry or physics is required. Weekly three hour lecture and two hour lab.

PH 115 Introduction To Earth Science: 4 semester hours

This is an introductory course in earth science that covers geologic origins, history and evolution of the earth along with basic identification of minerals. Topics included are: origins and history of the mineral layers, plate tectonics, geologic time, fossil record, and landform regions in Iowa. Field trips will be included, probably on weekends. Weekly three hour lecture and two hour lab.

PH 151 Principles of Physics I: 4 semester hours

The first of a 2-semester introductory physics sequence using algebra and trigonometry; covers mechanics, fluids, heat and thermodynamics, vibrations, waves, and sound. Fall semester, weekly three hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory. Prerequisite: C or better in MA 139 or more advanced mathematics course.

PH 152 Principles of Physics II: 4 semester hours

This course is a continuation of PH 151 that covers electricity and magnetism, optics, relativity, and selected topics in modern physics. Spring semester, weekly three hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory. Prerequisite: C or better in PH 151.