Intro-Physical Science in Archaeology

Physics 181

Section: D100

Term: 2000 Fall

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Day course
Burnaby campus

Discussion Topics: Course description:

This scientific course is primarily for students from the Arts Faculty who wish to understand the principles underlying the scientific methods that are becoming ever more broadly used in Archaeology. These basic principles are introduced in the context of their relevance to Archaeological investigation. (Note: This course is useful for those archaeologists wishing to review high school science).

Topics covered:

Basic scientific principles and concepts
Measurement and uncertainty
Nuclei, atoms, molecules and matter
Making an unknown substance identify itself and why one wants to
Isotopes, radioactivity, diet and dating methods
Chemical combination and dating methods

Grading: There are three lectures and one problem session per week, with occasional demonstrations and experiments. Grades will be based upon problem sets (25%), a mid-term (35%) and a final exam (40%).

Required Texts: None. Related lecture notes will be available at the Physics Department Office for a nominal sum.

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Usually BC High School Algebra 12 (or equivalent) and Physics 11. (Prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor prior to enrolling, as these requirements may be waived.)

Notes: Deferred grades will be given ONLY on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University’s IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.