

McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

ACADEMIC COOPERATIVE: NASA MINDS

CHEM 2389 01

LARRY BENTON

APRIL ANDREAS

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Course Description:

An instructional program designed to integrate on-campus study with practical hands-on work experience in the physical sciences. In conjunction with class seminars, the individual students will set specific goals and objectives in the scientific study of inanimate objects, processes of matter and energy, and associated phenomena.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Course requires consent of instructor. Prerequisites and co-requisites determined according to project proposal.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

In conjunction with faculty, the individual student will set specific goals and objectives in the study of the physical sciences. The student will demonstrate level-appropriate mastery. The student will work with a faculty member or department-approved professional mentor under the supervision of a faculty member. The student will cooperate in planning and devising his or her responsibilities. The student will meet at regular intervals with the supervisor of record.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Larry D. Benton
MCC E-mail: lbenton@mcclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8195
Office Location: Science Building SB 310 (Third Floor)
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Instructor Name: April K. Andreas
MCC Email: aandreas@mcclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8130
Office Location: Science Building SB 221 (Second Floor)
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Required Text & Materials:

Recommended:

- Additional references may be recommended, depending upon the project.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Students will learn through independent research, using textbooks and other available resources, along with directed work and discussions with the instructors and the Principal Investigator at MCC for NASA Minds. Additional methods may be used as opportunities present themselves..

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

The student will explore and analyze topics within physics to meet student-defined goals, objectives, and research interests in coordination with a Chemistry Department faculty member.

- The student will demonstrate the integration of discipline-specific perspectives with their application in a context outside of the traditional academic classroom.
- The student will demonstrate level-appropriate mastery of applied skills in the designated areas of study.
- The student will develop the ability to work in a faculty-student relationship to set and achieve specific goals in communication, leadership, and/or critical thinking.
- The student and supervising faculty member will define and agree upon plans for communicating and assessing progress and criteria for evaluating the student's work.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Every two weeks the team must provide a progress summary on the Discussion Board on Brightspace. Writing should be professional and formal regarding style, grammar, and spelling. Type directly in the text area (do not attach a Word document with the report). Upload attachments only as secondary/backup information. No more than 500 words. Although ultimately only one person should upload the summary, failure to submit the summary may result in a point deduction for the entire group.

Major NASA Deadlines		
Description	Start	End
Teams build and test their projects	Dec 21, 2022	Mar 26, 2023
Teams submit project deliverables (Poster, Tech Paper/SE paper, Project Video, Team Video)		Mar 28, 2023
NASA announces finalist teams and notifies finalists of online presentation date and time.		April 27, 2023
Live online presentations for finalist teams		May 2, 2023
LIVE Online Awards Ceremony		May 5, 2023

ACADEMIC COOPERATIVE: NASA MINDS

CHEM 2389 01

Intermediate Student-Driven Deadlines	
Description	Deadline
Materials list (Research team)	1/18
Review and Collect data from Materials	1/23
Review SE Paper	1/25
First Prototype Review	1/30
(R&D) Discuss Prototype Issues and Changes.	2/1
Review Technical Paper	2/6
Second Prototype - New Details Due	2/13
Test Prototype Meeting	2/15
Discuss Issues and Plan Out Final Design, Collect Data and Feedback	2/20
Start Edit for Team Videos with Current Data	2/20
Discuss Final Design, Collect Data	2/22
Test Week	2/27
Empty Week in case of 3rd Prototype	2/27
Plan out Concept for Team Videos (Script)	2/27
Review Poster	2/27
Review SE Paper	3/1
Deliverables to Instructors	3/8
Receive Feedback from Instructors	3/13
Start Editing Second Version of Deliverables with Criteria	3/13
Teams submit Project Deliverables/ Preferred Goal Due Date	3/14
Start Video Editing for Team & Concept Videos	3/20
Teams Submit Project Deliverables	3/27
Nasa's Deliverables Due Date	3/28
Map Out Roles for Live Presentation for Finalist Teams	4/10
Live Practice for Group for Finalist Teams	4/17
Live Practice in front of Group for Finalist Teams	4/24

Course Grading Information:

Your grade from the course will come from your faculty advisors. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	Weight
Technical Paper	25%
Poster	25%
Project Overview and Concept Video	25%
Creative Team Video	25%

High ranking teams will be selected for a live, online demonstration of their project to a team of NASA Subject Matter Experts. Details for each of these are provided in the NASA Minds 2022 Rules Handbook, which is available Brightspace as well as on the NASA Minds website.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Team meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, generally from 5 pm – 7:30 pm. If you are not able to make the meetings, you are still expected to contribute to the final product. There is a timesheet linked on Brightspace. You are expected to report your time each week and include a description of the tasks you worked on. Students who consistently fail to attend team meetings and submit their timecard will have a significant point deduction from their final grade.

1 week	Warning
2 weeks	5 pt deduction from final grade
3 weeks	15 pt deduction from final grade
4 weeks	Failure of course (or drop if it occurs before the drop date)

MCC allows for “excused” absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family, or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. It is your responsibility to let me know the reason for an absence the day you return to campus and provide sufficient documentation (doctor’s note, email from coach, etc.).

If you think you might be sick, DO NOT come to campus.

If you are going to be out for a full week, please get documentation (doctor's note, positive Covid result, etc.) and provide that to your instructors. Excused absences do not incur a grade penalty as long as you provide documentation.

If you wish to drop this class, you must email me from your MCC student account before 5 pm on the last day for student-initiated drops, with the request "Please drop me from COURSE ID and SECTION NUMBER." An email that says something like, "I would like to drop..." or, "I was thinking about dropping..." or, "I was wondering if I should drop..." will ***not*** be considered a drop request. (*Just like saying, "I would like to get married," does not mean anyone is going to automatically marry you.*) If the email does not come from your student account, or if the request is verbal, I cannot drop you. Alternatively, there is a form you can fill out and have me sign before 5 pm on the last day for student-initiated drops. (make an appointment to ensure I am on campus to provide the signature). After submitting your request, you must verify the drop was processed, notifying me in writing within 48 hours of your original request if it was not. Otherwise, you will stay on the roster for the rest of the semester and be awarded the grade earned. Drops past the drop date are only done in documented, extreme, life-crisis circumstances, which usually involve withdrawing from school entirely.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

Updated 11/04/2022

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ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu 254-299-
8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the

crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am - 5:00 pm on Friday. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom (<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998500>) or email (ast@mclennan.edu) during the above mentioned times.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-andStaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.