

Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Road
Middletown, CT 06457
www.mxcc.commnet.edu

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Earth Science

Course #: EAS 102

Course Item #: 1081

Semester: Spring 2015 (Jan. 21 – May 17)

Semester Hours: 3.0

Class Meeting Times—Day/Time: Online

Instructor: Mr. Paul Maywood

Instructor's Contact Information: Blackboard mail or pmaywood@mcc.commnet.edu

VERY IMPORTANT: If you are using commnet to email me for help or information please use the following format in your subject line:

EAS 102 Mx [your name] HELP

Attachments are not accepted.

On Campus Office Hours: by appointment

Online Office Hours: Sundays and Thursdays 7:00-8:00 pm. I will respond to email and discussion (when needed) within two working days. Your work will be graded within one week (usually much faster).

Phone Contact: (860) 262-4883 (leave message). Email will probably get you a faster response. I will generally be able to respond to phone messages within 48 hours.

Course Prerequisites: Reading exempt and a grade of C or better in MAT 075 or placement into MAT 095 or a higher-level Math course.

Scope of Course: An introductory survey of the planet Earth, which covers topics in astronomy, oceanography, meteorology and geology. May be taken as a general science elective. This course is taught through a combination of classroom lectures, demonstrations, web quests, practical hands-on examination of earth materials, and field excursions where time permits. This course fulfills a three-credit science elective, and is especially useful for students interested in environmental or physical sciences.

Required Text: Foundations of Earth Science, by Lutgens, Tarbuck and Tasa, 7th ed., Prentice Hall, 2014, ISBN-13 978-0-321-81179-0. The text is required for you to be successful in this course. **Prior editions of this text are NOT ADVISED!** The student is responsible for reading all chapters assigned. Additional readings throughout the semester may be required.

Also Required: calculator, appropriate field clothing for optional field trips.

Evaluation Criteria (Grading):

The following factors will make up your grade (see breakdown below):

- 40% exams
- 10% quizzes
- 35% assignments
- 15% discussions

Grading Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9
A- 90-92.9	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D- 60-62.9
B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9	F <60

Grades for each assignment will be posted in Blackboard and students will be provided with rolling course averages. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any discrepancy as soon as possible.

Course Requirements and Online Learning

Each student will be required to read and study all text and lecture materials each week. There will be additional materials that will enhance understanding of each area covered for the student to complete each week.

- 1) Do not give out any personal data. You may email Mr. Maywood or other students through Blackboard. Therefore, there is no need to give out your personal email address to any other student.
- 2) Access Blackboard at least 2 to 3 times a week. There is a significant amount of reading, homework assignments and assessments during the semester.

See section below under 'Discussions' for additional information.

Course Components

Announcements: This important Blackboard tool will be used to communicate any change in schedule, or to tell you about upcoming field trips, special events of interest, or other course information.

Learning Modules: *Everything* you need to do can be accessed here. For example, the Week 1 module contains two short reading assignments, a PowerPoint for the Introduction chapter, and a short assignment. Everything must be completed by the late Sunday night deadline. You have one week to complete all items in the Learning Module so there should be no excuse for lateness.

Lecture: The primary lecture delivery will be through Blackboard. There is an organizer on the home page labeled "Lecture PowerPoints." These files may be viewed or downloaded to your computer. The PowerPoints have been posted as PDFs.

Exams: Four non-cumulative exams will be given throughout the semester. These exams are objective exams with emphasis on concepts and applications and may be accessed from the Learning Modules. Questions will be mostly true/false, multiple choice, multiple-multiple

choice, or short answer. Questions will be made up from quiz questions, lecture notes, the text, outside readings, and/or homework assignments. **The lowest exam score will not be dropped.** Missed exams cannot be made up. Some questions from the subject matter covered by a prior exam may appear on future exam(s).

Quizzes: A number of quizzes will be given covering one or two chapters each. Questions may be true/false, multiple choice, multiple-multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, essay and/or critical thinking. Questions will be generated from lecture notes, the text, outside readings, and/or homework assignments and may be accessed from the Learning Modules area. **The lowest quiz score will not be dropped,** so it is important to do your best on each one. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Assignments (Homework): Ten homework assignments will be given. All homework must be submitted by the specified deadline and may be accessed from the learning modules. Topical exercises may include Connecticut mining, soil analysis, global warming and/or other topics. **The lowest assignment score will not be dropped.** You will receive a zero for any missed assignment(s). Missed assignments cannot be made up. Students must use the 'Write Submission' box to submit their assignments. Please submit answers only with a question number (do not include the questions). DO NOT use the Comments area to submit your assignments. Also do not send assignments via attachment as it will be immediately deleted without consideration. If it ever becomes necessary to send your assignment via email, please copy/paste your entire assignment into the **body** of the email. Failure to follow these important instructions will result in a reduced grade.

Discussions: Three discussions will be assigned and may be accessed from the learning modules or the discussions button on the left-hand toolbar. Your discussion/reply must be submitted by the specified late night deadline. Students are to provide **substantive** feedback on discussion topics. This will be evaluated based on relevance, readability/complete sentences and number of words. Discussions will need to be a minimum of 200 words and replies to others' posts will need to reach a 150-word minimum, unless otherwise specified. One discussion and one response will be submitted for each topic, except Discussion 1 which will be one discussion only. *Your reply also needs to be substantive and not just a rehash of your post.* For each discussion grade, 70% will be based upon the discussion and 30% upon the reply. Students will be given a letter grade based on A=95%, B=85%, C=75%, D=65%, etc.

To post in this course's discussion forums please observe the following rules. The rules are important for courteous discussion and to make sure we stay productive.

1. The subject line should be relevant. The subject line should not be: "I agree," "Me too," "Re: (Topic name)," or just the topic name. We should be able to get an inkling of the content of your message from the subject line.

2. The content of each posting should contribute relevant information. The information should offer something new to think about and/or add to the conversation. It provides insights and moves the conversation along. When discussing specific information sources (such as other postings, articles, links, or texts), it should include links or references. Doing this takes real effort, but that effort is needed to make discussion postings a valuable part of the learning process.

3. All postings must be on topic and as concise as possible. Be as concise as possible while getting your point across as clearly as possible. More is not always better. It takes effort to be clear and concise, but that effort is needed to make the discussion valuable to learning.

4. Debate is important to learning, so feel free to disagree (including with me). While disagreement is acceptable, disagreeing offensively is not acceptable. To disagree without being offensive, you must not:

- Label anyone in the class, your instructors, or the authors of texts and articles with derogatory terms or names.
- Use language that is reasonably perceived as offensive (such as curse words or slurs).
- “Shout” by using all CAPS in your posting or subject line.
- Post inflammatory messages.

To disagree without being offensive, you must clearly state the nature of disagreement (what is incorrect according to you) and why you think it is incorrect (provide support for your position). Offensive or inappropriate posts will be *removed* and you will receive a reduced discussion grade.

5. The tone of communication should be semiformal. Avoid use of internet (and texting) abbreviations since you cannot assume that they are known by all.

Field Trips: **Field trips are optional.** Weather permitting, a number of Friday and/or Saturday field trips will be offered. A short report or question/answer sheet will be required if you wish to get **extra credit** for this activity. Dates and times will be provided in the Announcements tool. The following are tentative destinations:

Peabody Museum, New Haven
 Yale Observatory, Bethany
 CCSU Planetarium/Observatory, New Britain

For day trips, appropriate footwear is required. Other items you may wish to consider include sunscreen, a digital camera, clipboard, and a light lunch.

Course Schedule and Text Readings: This course schedule is a best estimate and deviations may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	1/21- 1/25	Introduction Methods of Science Critical Thinking Earth Systems	Methods of Science, Critical Thinking, Introduction	Assignment 1: Hypotheses Discussion 1: Introduction
2	1/26- 2/1	Matter and Minerals Rocks	Chap. 1 Chap. 2	Chap. 1 Quiz Chap. 2 Quiz
3	2/2- 2/8	Geologic Time	Chap. 8	Chap. 8 Quiz Assignment 2: Unconformities Discussion 2: Anthropocene

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignments
4	2/9-2/15	Plate Tectonics	Chap. 5	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-2, 8, 5, handouts)
5	2/16-2/22	Earthquakes, Geologic Structures and Mountain Building	Chap. 6	Chap. 6 Quiz Assignment 3: Plate Tectonics
6	2/23-3/1	Volcanoes and Other Igneous Activity Landscapes	Chap. 7 Chap. 3	Chap. 7 Quiz Assignment 4: Volcanoes
7	3/2-3/8	Glacial and Arid Landscapes Geology of Connecticut (PowerPoint)	Chap. 4 Geology of CT handout	Chap. 3-4 Quiz Assignment 5: Snowball Earth
8	3/9-3/15	Oceans: The Last Frontier	Chap. 9	Exam 2 (Ch. 6-7, 3-4, CT Geology)
	3/16-3/22	Spring Break - <i>NO CLASSES</i>		
9	3/23-3/29	The Restless Ocean	Chap. 10	Chap. 9 Quiz Assignment 6: CT Mining
10	3/30-4/5	Heating the Atmosphere Global Climate Change (PowerPoint)	Chap. 11	Chap. 10 Quiz Discussion 3: Climate Change
11	4/6-4/12	Moisture, Clouds and Precipitation	Chap. 12	Chap. 11 Quiz Possible Field Trip 4/11
12	4/13-4/19	The Atmosphere in Motion	Chap. 13	Exam 3 (Ch. 9-12, Climate Change)
13	4/20-4/26	Weather Patterns and Severe Weather	Chap. 14	Chap. 14 Quiz Assignment 8: Tornadoes
14	4/27-5/3	The Sun (PowerPoint) Nature of the Solar System	Chap. 15	Chap. 15 Quiz Assignment 9: Exoplanets Possible Field Trip 5/2 or 5/3
15	5/4-5/10	Beyond the Solar System	Chap. 16	Chap. 16 Quiz Assignment 10: H-R diagram
16	5/11-5/17	Review and take Exam 4		Exam 4 (Ch. 13-16, The Sun)

WARNING: The above course schedule may change due to extended power outages, etc. You will be informed of any changes through the Announcements tool.

Grading: The College uses the following grades and quality points:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = 0.7
B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	F = 0.0

The following have no quality points:

W (Withdrawal)	I (Incomplete)	AU (Audit)
U (Fail)	N (No Basis for Grade)	S (Pass)

Withdrawal: See the MxCC catalog for the College's policy on withdrawal dates, without penalty. I will consider giving a withdrawal (rather than an F) if you decide within a reasonable timeframe (one month) that you are either unprepared to continue this course, or that other constraints in your life will not permit you to continue.

Class Expectations: Science includes good communication skills (listening, speaking and writing). Professional courtesy and respect is expected from all participants of the class. It is also important to be safe, courteous and watch out for each other during field trips.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this class, you should be able to view the Earth as a planet in the context of our solar system. You will be able to gain an appreciation for how the Earth works, what it is made of, and why its surface looks the way it does. The Earth is the only planet where water exists in three forms at the surface and you should be able to appreciate its cycling through the various Earth systems, and its work as a geologic agent in eroding and shaping the landscape. You will learn that the origin and evolution of Earth's atmosphere interrelates with the other Earth's systems and how our atmosphere is uniquely suited to host life, and how the biosphere has had a significant influence on the other Earth's systems. Science includes good communication skills (listening, speaking, and writing). I expect us all to practice respect for each other when asking questions and listening (or reading) to each other's ideas and comments - they are an important part of the learning in this course.

Generally, the student should become familiar with the following:

- Define and describe some of the basic principles and fundamental concepts in Earth science.
- Discuss the historical development of some of the developments in Earth science.
- Discuss and use some of the various methods and apparatus used in observing, measuring, and predicting various phenomena.
- Use computer simulations to help conceptualize some processes and conditions encountered in Earth science.

Course goals:

- Encourage a sense of awe and an appreciation of the various topics investigated in Earth science.
- Facilitate student understanding of the scientific method and provide opportunities for their practice in its use.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning skills - emphasis on the observing, predicting, and testing nature of science.
- Provide students with a moderate survey of some of the current topics in the Earth sciences.
- Provide students with opportunities to learn, and use, semi-quantitative reasoning skills.

General unit outlines:

- I. Models in science - Earth systems
- II. Solid Earth processes – earthquakes, volcanism, Earth materials
- III. Surficial processes – surface water, groundwater, glaciers, soils and deserts

- IV. Oceans
- V. The atmosphere and weather
- VI. Climate and climate change
- VII. Astronomy

How this course addresses MxCC core competencies:

1. **Communication Skills:** Students are encouraged to apply written communication skills in discussing class work conceptual exercises and homework exercises with instructor and fellow students. Written communication skills will be exercised in short classroom writing and homework assignments.
2. **Conceptual/Critical Thinking Skills:** Critical thinking skills will be defined and discussed within each learning unit. In addition, students will be utilizing critical thinking skills in their classroom and homework assignments.
3. **Technological Literacy:** This course will utilize computer skills by accessing the textbook's companion web site and our classroom web site.
4. **Information Literacy:** Information literacy skills will be utilized in the evaluation of homework assignments.
5. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Quantitative reasoning will only be introduced on an as needed basis to explain some of the scientific data. The ability to estimate will also be introduced.
6. **Understanding of Diversity:** Some important contributions and environmental settings from persons of all ethnicity, race, culture, religion and national origin. Discussions will note this diversity.
7. **Values, Ethics and Responsible Citizenship:** The course will make special note of ethics and legal responsibilities of scientists, politicians and citizens, and be appraised of the social responsibilities that we all take on.
8. **Aesthetic Perspective:** Students will be able to appreciate the symmetry and beauty of nature and how the scientific method is used to help understand nature in a rational sense.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website:

www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

□ *Primary Title IX Coordinator*
Dr. Adrienne Maslin
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123

□ *Secondary Title IX Coordinator*
Ms. Mary Lou Phillips
Director of Human Resources, Middlesex Community College
mphilips@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5751; Founders Hall Room 115

□ *Secondary Title IX Coordinator*
Ms. Queen Fordham
Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011

The policies referenced in the link www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ are as below:

Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism and Cheating)

Middlesex Community College expects the highest standards of scholarship and academic honesty from our students. Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty are prohibited conduct as defined in the Student Code of Conduct published by the Board of Regents for Higher Education (“BOR”) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (“CSCU”).

Specifically, the Code prohibits academic misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and all forms of cheating.

Plagiarism is defined as the submission of work by a student for academic credit as one’s own work of authorship which contains work of another author without appropriate attribution.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (i) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations; (ii) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments; (iii) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; and (iv) engaging in any other behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct are subject to disciplinary procedures, up to and including expulsion from the College.

For the full Policy on Student Conduct, please visit www.mxcc.edu/catalog/policy-on-student-conduct.
Accessibility & Disability Services

Middlesex Community College is committed to equal access for persons with disabilities. Academic adjustments are provided to students with disabilities to assure equivalent access to academic and campus programs. For more information about academic adjustments and how to request them, please contact Ms. Hilary Phelps, Disability Support Services Coordinator (office: Founders Hall room 121; phone: 860-343-5879; email: hphelps@mxcc.edu). Ms. Phelps works with students to discuss individual requests, review the type of adjustments and services that MxCC will provide, and inform them about any documentation that may be necessary to arrange for certain adjustments. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Ms. Phelps at least one month before classes begin to avoid any delay in providing academic adjustments, especially when the college must arrange for external resources to

provide the adjustments. Please also note that academic adjustments cannot be given retroactively. For further information, please visit www.mxcc.edu/disability-services.

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are registered. It is the responsibility of students to make up all course work missed because of legitimate class absences and to notify the instructor if they know when an absence will occur. Students who are reported as never attending a course may be withdrawn from the course by the College. Such withdrawal may jeopardize a student's academic standing, financial aid award, and/or veterans' benefits.

Instructors of online courses may define "attendance" as regular participation in electronic course activities including, but not limited to, discussions, chats, journals, quizzes, and assignments. Students who fail to participate in the prescribed manner may miss deadlines for assignments and reduce their ability to maintain pace with course topics and work.

Instructors are required to take attendance during the first three weeks of class for the purpose of reporting to the Financial Aid Office those students who have never attended class. Instructors are encouraged, but not mandated by the College, to require students to attend each class, take attendance in their courses, and assess student attendance directly or through regular graded classroom participation and/or assessments. However, student attendance cannot be the sole basis for a course grade.

All instructors have the right to prepare and teach college-approved courses to best represent the fields in which they teach, in accordance with approved course descriptions and class schedules. Attendance can be tied to many planned classroom activities and assessments that can be tied directly to a student's grade. For example, missing a weekly quiz because of non-attendance can negatively impact a student's grade. Failing to participate in a "regulated" classroom discussion can also result in a negative impact on a student's grade. Missed laboratory or studio activities and participation in group work, can result in a negative grade.

Faculty members are required to distribute to students during the first week of classes, subject to subsequent modification, a course syllabus which contains information as to course objectives, topics and assigned time-frames, indication of evaluative and grading mechanisms to be utilized, reading and attendance requirements, special circumstances under which student absences may be excused, and stipulations for making up work and exams missed during instructor-excused absences. Specific course requirements will be noted in each course syllabus.

Note: Veterans should contact the college Veterans Affairs office for more information about attendance and their funding.

Audio Recordings in the Classroom

Audio recording classroom activities may affect both faculty and students in a number of ways, including the extent to which their participation may be affected by the audio-recording. In recognition thereof, the College acknowledges that there are legitimate interests involving copyright; academic freedom of the College, the instructor, and the students; privacy rights under the Family Educational Rights and

Privacy Act (FERPA); and, expectations that need to be respected regarding members of the class having their identity and statement records protected.

Instructors may permit a student to audio-record a classroom lecture for her/his personal use when studying. Instructors may also audio-record their own lectures for pedagogical uses. Before any classroom lecture or activity is audio-recorded, the student wishing to make the audio recording must ask permission of the instructor. It is the instructor's right to deny recording of a class, unless the audio-recording has been previously authorized in writing by the College's Office of Accessibility Services. In every class session in which audio-recording will occur (whether the recording is being made by the instructor or a student), the instructor must announce to the class that the lecture/classroom activity is being audio-recorded and inquire if anyone has an objection to being so audio-recorded. If any student expresses a preference not to have her/his voice recorded, the instructor can either grant her/him an exemption from verbal participation with no penalty, or the instructor can re-consider the permission to record, unless the audio-recording has been authorized in writing by the College's Accessibility Services Office, in which a denial of the request to audio-record is not permitted.

Audio-recordings by students are for personal use only, for the sole purpose to aid student learning. It is never permissible for a student or anyone else to copy, distribute, sell, file-share, or Web-serve any classroom audio-recording in part or in full. The unauthorized recording of others by students is a serious violation of the Board of Regents Policy on Student Conduct. Unauthorized recordings may also be illegal, subjecting the violator to both civil and criminal penalties. Faculty are required to report unauthorized recording activity of any kind by any student to both the Academic Dean and the Dean of Students.

Under limited circumstances, faculty may use recordings of classroom activities to aid learning of students registered in classes at Middlesex Community College. Posting within a Blackboard shell may be in compliance. It is not permissible to "publish" recordings of College course lectures for general use, whether or not for profit or financial gain of any kind, without the prior written permission of both the Academic Dean and College President.

E-Mail Accounts for Students

All Connecticut Community College students now have an official email address (prefix@mail.ct.edu) to which all college-based communications will be sent. The "prefix" is the first letter of your first name, followed by first 4 letters of your last name, followed by a 4-digit number (e.g., jsmit1234@mail.ct.edu for John Smith). If your last name contains fewer than four characters; the "prefix" will include all letters of your last name (e.g., jdoe1234@mail.ct.edu for John Doe). You access Office 365 at <http://portal.microsoftonline.com> and log in with your CCC NetID username and password. For more details, please see <http://www.ct.edu/365#faq>.

Non-Discrimination Policies

Middlesex Community College (MxCC) strives to provide all of its students and employees with an environment that is conducive to learning, teaching, and the execution of employment responsibilities. Our goal is for our college environment to foster inclusivity and be free of harassment of any kind. Please visit <http://mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination> for information about:

- Nondiscrimination Policy
- Affirmative Action Policy

- ☒ People with Disabilities: Policy Statement
- ☒ ADA Grievance Procedure for the General Public
- ☒ Racism and Acts of Intolerance
- ☒ Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Statement

Non-Discrimination Statement

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- ☐ Primary Title IX Coordinator Dr. Adrienne Maslin; Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123
- ☐ Secondary Title IX Coordinator Ms. Mary Lou, Phillips, Director of Human Resources, Middlesex Community College mphillips@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5751; Founders Hall Room 115
- ☐ Secondary Title IX Coordinator Ms. Queen Fordham, Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011.

Religious Accommodation Statement

If your religious obligations conflict with a course calendar requirement, and if you wish to request an accommodation, you must make your request in writing prior to the date of the assessment or activity you will miss and preferably at the beginning of the semester. When requesting a make-up quiz, test, exam, assignment, or activity, state the reason for your request and the date(s) on which your religious obligation(s) will conflict with the course calendar requirements. Also, if your religious obligation/holiday is unfamiliar to your instructor, you may be asked to provide a calendar which shows the published date(s) of your religious observance(s) or holiday(s).

School Cancellations Due to Weather or Emergency Situations

In the event of inclement weather or local emergency either before the start of a day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc., by listening to many of the area's local radio and TV stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at www.mxcc.edu and an announcement made on the college's main phone number, 860-343-5800. (When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option 1 from the menu for school closings.) Students are urged to exercise their own judgment if road conditions in their localities are hazardous.

Student Code of Conduct

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. In line with this purpose, the Board of Regents for Higher Education ("BOR") in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities ("CSCU") has the duty to protect the freedoms of inquiry and expression, and furthermore, has the responsibility to encourage all of its members to develop the capacity for critical judgment in their sustained and

independent search for truth. CSCU has certain self-defined institutional values. Principal among these values is respect for the safety, dignity, rights, and individuality of each member of the CSCU Community. The opportunity to live, study, and work in an institution which values diverse intellectual and cultural perspectives and encourages discussion and debate about competing ideas in an atmosphere of civility is a basic component of quality higher education.

All members of CSCU must at all times govern their social and academic interactions with tolerance and mutual respect so that the students who pass through a CSCU door are enriched by these experiences and are prepared for full and enlightened participation in a multi-cultural society. Because of the BOR's and CSCU's commitment to principles of pluralism, mutual respect, and civility, certain activities are not acceptable on CSCU campuses. Acts of intolerance, of hatred or violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation or expression, disability, gender, age, or ethnic background are antithetical to the BOR's and CSCU's fundamental principles and values. It is the BOR's and CSCU's responsibility to protect our students' right to learn by establishing an environment of civility.

For the full Policy on Student Conduct, please visit www.mxcc.edu/catalog/policy-on-student-conduct.

Withdrawing From Class

Students may withdraw from one or more classes any time before the end of the 11th week of the semester. (For summer, accelerated, and late-start courses, the withdrawal deadline is the date at which 75% of the total course time has been completed.) A completed and signed withdrawal form must be on file in the Records Office by the deadline in order to receive a "W" on your transcript. If a student fails to complete this process on time, the student will receive a letter grade (A through F) at the end of the semester, which will include zeroes for any work not submitted. Course withdrawals may affect financial aid and veteran's benefits. Students should make this decision carefully and with the help of their academic advisor. See the Academic Calendar for specific dates, and the Academic Policies found in the College Catalog for specific procedures, regarding course withdrawals.

