



Descriptive

Astronomy!



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a one-semester course. Nonmathematical consideration of the solar system, star clusters, nebulae, pulsars, the Milky Way galaxy, extra-galactic objects, and recent discoveries as time permits. Astronomical instruments and their uses are studied. Laboratory and night observations are included as weather permits. This is a general education course. Three credits.

PREREQUISITES: None.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required: **Astronomy: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe (3th Edition)**
Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan

Recommended (for the more serious Astronomy student):
 The Peterson Field Guide, Stars and Planets
 by Donald H. Menzel and Jay M. Pasachoff

GRADING: Grades will be based upon three exams each worth 25% of total grade. Attendance and participation will contribute 25%.

3 exams including final (100 points each)	300 points
Attendance/Participation at discussions & labs	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL	400 points

Note: The exams are *not* cumulative

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

	A: 93%-100%	A: 90%-92%
B ⁺ : 87%-89%	B: 83%-86%	B ⁻ :80%-82%
C ⁺ : 77%-79%	C: 73%-76%	C ⁻ :70%-72%
D ⁺ : 67%-69%	D: 60%-66%	F : 0%-59%

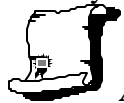
There will be no "extra credit." There are no provisions for making up a missed exam.



COURSE OBJECTIVES: 1. To enhance one's personal awareness of the physical universe, to view it, and perceive it with increased understanding and appreciation. Our universe is our

home. It is magnificent, mysterious, and fascinating, so we should learn to feel “at home” in it. Thus, one objective of the course is to “enjoy the view,” literally and figuratively.

2. To become familiar with the science of Astronomy, to know something of its history and development, its tools and instruments, its working hypotheses and simplifying assumptions, its methods of analysis, and its current thought.



ATTENDANCE: **Punctual** and **regular** attendance is expected in this course. Attendance will not be taken for lecture **but** will be taken **at the end** of each discussion/laboratory session. To ensure that you receive credit for attending the discussion/laboratory session, **don't forget to sign the attendance sheet. Credit will not be given later on.**



DISCUSSION/LABORATORY: Activities during the discussion/laboratory sessions will depend on the weather. Thus, the discussion/laboratory sessions will consist of a combination of the following activities:

1. Direct viewing sessions (outside) as the weather permits (Stadium).
2. Doing astronomy related exercises (PAD 261).
3. Watching astronomy related movies (PAD 261).
4. Working in the computer lab (HRY 117).

Since field work is dependent upon “seeing” conditions, it will be necessary to hold indoor laboratory sessions on some class nights. It is important to attend all sessions. Remember that some nights may be cold, so it is a good idea to have a jacket or sweater on hand.

Note: Attendance & participation at discussions & labs will be 25% of your grade.



HOMEWORK: The only formal assigned homework is **reading your textbook**. This is **critical** to your success in this class. Please make a point of reading your book at least **30 minutes per day**.



EXAMS: There will be a total of three (3) exams. Each one will be worth 25 % of your final grade. The exams are not cumulative. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions.



IMPORTANT DATES/HOLIDAYS

Th	06/27/03	Last day to drop course without a grade
F	07/04/03	Independence Day
Th	07/25/03	Last day to drop with a grade “W”
W	07/31/03	Last day of classes
M	08/04/03	Final Exam

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week #	Date	Event
1	06/23	Syllabus/Introduction/Definitions/ Constellations

	06/25	Chapter 1:Copernican Revolution
2	06/30	Chapter 2:Light and Matter
	07/02	Chapter 3:Telescopes
3	07/07	Exam #1(Ch. 1,2,&3)/ Chapter 4:Solar System
	07/09	Chapter 5:Earth and Moon
4	07/14	Chapter 6: The Terrestrial Planets
	07/16	Chapter 7: Jovian Planets/Chapter 8:Moons, Rings and Pluto
5	07/21	Exam #2(Ch. 4,5,6,7&8)/ Chapter 9:Sun
	07/23	Chapter 10: Measuring Stars
6	07/28	Chapter 11:Interstellar Medium/Chaper12: Stellar Evolution
	07/30	Chapter 14: Milky Way Galaxy/Chapter 15 Normal Galaxies
7	08/04	Exam #3 (Final Exam) - Ch.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as may be necessary.