

Syllabus

Astronomy 4, section 2
TuTh 5:30 – 6:45

Fall 2009
MND 1015

Professor: Chris Taylor

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Office: 438 Sequoia Hall

Office Hours: Tu/Th 1:00 – 1:50; W 11:00- 11:50

also by appointment

Week of:	Material Covered:
Sept. 1, 3	Chapter 1 – Charting the Heavens.
Sept. 8, 10	Chapter 1 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 2 – The Copernican Revolution.
Sept. 15, 17	Chapter 2 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 3 – Radiation.
Sept. 22, 24	Chapter 3 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 4 – Spectroscopy. (Exam)
Sept. 29, Oct. 1	Chapter 4 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 5 – Telescopes.
Oct. 6, 8	Chapter 5 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 16 – The Sun.
Oct. 13, 15	Chapter 16 (<i>continued</i>).
Oct. 20, 22	Chapter 17 – Red Giants and White Dwarfs (Exam)
Oct. 27, 29	Chapter 19 – Star Formation
Nov. 3, 5	Chapter 19 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 20 – Stellar Evolution
Nov. 10, 12	Chapter 20 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 21 – Stellar Explosions.
Nov. 17, 19	Chapter 22 – Neutron Stars and Black Holes. (Exam)
Nov. 24, 26	Chapter 23 – The Milky Way Galaxy.
Dec. 1, 3	Chapter 23 (<i>continued</i>), Chapter 24 – Normal and Active Galaxies.
Dec. 8, 10	Chapter 25 – Galaxies and Dark Matter, Chapter 26 – Cosmology.

Additional Course Information:

Course Goals:

- 1) To understand the place of human beings in the physical Universe.
- 2) To learn how astronomers use knowledge of physics and chemistry to study distant objects via observation and the scientific method.
- 3) To learn the history of human knowledge of the Universe.
- 4) To learn the basic principles of modern astronomy: telescopes, the electromagnetic spectrum, the formation and evolution of stars, and the structure of galaxies.

Required Text:

Astronomy Today, Vol. II Stars and Galaxies (6th Edition) by Chaisson and McMillan.

Reading the text is essential. It's best if you read the section of the book we will be covering any given day *before* we discuss that material in class. I have put two copies of the text in the reserve room over at the library.

Required Equipment:

CPS Transmitter. The class participation part of your grade will be completed using the CPS transmitters during class to answer discussion questions. The CPS transmitters are sold in the Hornet Bookstore.

Buy the CPS as soon as possible.

Grades:

Your final course grades will be based upon homework, best 2 of 3 exams, a cumulative final exam, and class participation during in-class exercises.

Homework	20%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam:	30%

Homework will be assigned on SacCT on Thursday, and will be due before the beginning of class on the next Tuesday. You will always have the weekend to work on the homework assignments. ***All homework assignments are done using SacCT!!***

Exams will be multiple choice. You will need to bring a General Purpose Pearson NCS Answer Sheet, form no. 4521 (available from the bookstore), and a number 2 pencil.

You will also have to bring photo ID to all exams!

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	≥ 95%
A-	≥ 90%
B+	≥ 87%
B	≥ 82%
B-	≥ 77%
C+	≥ 73%
C	≥ 69%
C-	≥ 66%
D+	≥ 62%
D	≥ 58%
D-	≥ 55%
F	less than 55%

To avoid a grade of F, you must pass at least one exam. No one who fails all three midterms *and* the final will pass the course.

Contacting Me:

The best way is by e-mail, since I don't check my voice mail very often. Coming to office hours is also good, and any time my office door is open, please come in.

Attendance:

Attendance is not mandatory, but is *highly* encouraged. If you miss an in-class exercise, then you will receive zero points for it, which will be reflected in your grade. Class participation is one-fifth of your final grade, and you can't earn any class participation points if you aren't here! Each class participation is worth two points: you get one point for being here and answering the question, and an additional point for getting the answer right.

Make-up Exams:

I will announce exam dates at least 2 weeks in advance of the exam. If you have a conflicting activity that cannot be rescheduled, *you must see me at least two days before the exam*. If you don't come see me before the exam, there will be no opportunity to make it up. You must bring me documentation of your conflicting activity (i.e. If you have jury duty, show me the form they sent you, if you have a brain transplant scheduled for that day and can't change it, bring me a note from the surgeon, etc....).

Math:

Algebra is required in this course. I plan the exams so that you cannot get an A if you get all the math problems wrong. However, if you get every math problem wrong, but get everything else right, you can still get a B.

Calculators are allowed on the exams. PDAs and cell phones that can do math *are not allowed*.

Cell Phone Policy:

Please turn your cell phone to vibrate before class starts. Cell phones that ring in the middle of class are disrespectful to your fellow students and to me. If your cell phone goes off in class and it is a call that you must take, please go into the hallway to answer it.

Cheating:

The faculty of the Department of Physics and Astronomy do not tolerate academic dishonesty. Falsification of data, copying, unauthorized collaborations, plagiarism, alteration of graded materials or other actions (as described in, but not necessarily limited to the CSUS Policy Manual) *will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Affairs*. The offending student will be penalized on the assignment in question. Serious infractions will result in course failure and a recommendation for administrative sanctions.

Students with disabilities:

Please see me before the end of the first week of class.