

Syllabus

Astronomy 131
MWF 2:00 – 2:50

Fall 2017
Sequoia Hall 325

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Office: 438 Sequoia Hall

Office Hours: M/F 1:00 – 1:50; F 3:00 – 3:50

also by appointment

Week of:

Material Covered:

Self-Review

Refresher: Gravity, Newton's Laws, Atoms, Light

Aug. 28, 30, Sept. 1

Exploring the Solar System – Chapter 46

Sept. 6, 8

Origin of the Solar System – Chapter 2

Sept. 11, 13, 15

The Sun – Chapter 4

Sept. 18, 20, 22

Chapter 4 (*continued*)

Sept. 25, 27, 29

The Inner Planets – Chapters 6 and 8 (**Exam**)

Oct. 2, 4, 6

The Inner Planets – Chapters 6 and 8

Oct. 9, 11, 13

The Inner Planets – Chapters 10 and 12

Oct. 16, 18, 20

The Inner Planets – Chapters 12 and 16

Oct. 23, 25, 27

The Outer Planets – Chapters 20, 21

Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 3

The Outer Planets – Chapters 20, 21 (**Exam**)

Nov. 6, 8

Comets – Chapters 30, 31

Nov. 13, 15, 17

Comets – Chapters 30, 31 (*continued*)

Nov. 20, 22

Meteorites and Asteroids – Chapters 13, 18

Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1

Astrobiology – Chapter 45

Dec. 4, 6, 8

Extrasolar Planets – Chapter 47

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 12:45 – 2:45

Additional Course Information:

Course Goals:

1. To understand the composition, structure and atmospheres of the planets in our solar system.
2. To learn about the other components of our solar system, including moons, asteroids and comets.
3. To understand the Sun's influence on the solar system.
4. To understand the current theories for the formation of the solar system and its planets.
5. To learn about the history of solar system exploration in the Space Age.

Prerequisites:

Astr 4A or 4B or 4C, or Phys 11A or Chem 1A course *and* being placed into a Writing Intensive class after taking the WPJ.

Recommended Text:

Encyclopedia of the Solar System, 2nd edition. Editors: McFadden, Weissman and Johnson.

Reading the text helps. 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. One copy of the book will be on reserve in the Library, used copies are available from on-line sources, and a version for Kindle is available from Amazon.

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 informal writing exercise, then you will receive zero points for it, which will be reflected in your grade.

Grades:

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

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Informal Class Writing	20%
Final Exam:	25%
Course Writing Project	25%

In-class writing will be done about once a week, usually in the last 10-20 minutes of class, and will be turned in at the end of that class. The topics will vary from “what did I learn in class today?”, to expressing your opinions about astronomy related public policy issues.

Grammar and spelling are important, but more important is how clearly you express yourself and your ideas.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

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

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....).

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.

Students with disabilities:

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

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.

Plagiarism:

Anyone caught plagiarizing material will fail this class!!

If you have any questions about plagiarism, come see me before you turn your project in!

Below is an excerpt from the CSUS official policy on plagiarism, which may be found in its entirety on the CSUS web page by searching on the term “plagiarism”.

Plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporating another's work into one's own requires adequate identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism is doubly unethical because it deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge. When the course is not noted, the following would constitute plagiarism:

1. Word-for-word copying.
2. The mosaic (to intersperse a few words of one's own here and there while, in essence, copying another's work).
3. The paraphrase (the rewriting of another's work, yet still using the fundamental idea or theory).
4. Fabrication (inventing or counterfeiting sources).
5. Ghost-written material (submitting another's effort as one's own).

It is also plagiarism to neglect quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged. Plagiarism and acts associated with it are cause for disciplinary and/or legal action.