

ERTH 103 - Descriptive Astronomy

Fall Semester 2007

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Hanson

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Office Hours: MWTh 2:00-3:00

Optional text: Astronomy: A Beginners Guide to the Universe. By: Chaisson & McMillan

Lecture Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
8-27	Introduction	
8-29	Celestial coordinates	Prologue
8-30	Seasons	Prologue
9-3	No Class – Labor Day!	
9-5	Motions of the Moon a& Planets	Prologue
9-6	History of Astronomy	Ch. 1
9-10	Telescopes	Ch. 3
9-12	Solar System	Ch. 4
9-13	Solar System	Ch. 4
9-17	Solar System	Ch. 4
9-19	Exam 1	
9-20	Earth	Ch. 5
9-24	Earth	Ch. 5
9-26	Moon	Ch. 5
9-27	Mercury & Venus	Ch. 6
10-1	Mars	Ch. 6
10-3	Jupiter & Saturn	Ch. 7, 8
10-4	Jupiter & Saturn	Ch. 7, 8
10-8	Jupiter & Saturn	Ch. 7, 8
10-10	Uranus & Neptune	Ch. 7, 8
10-11	Pluto and UB313	
10-15	No Class – Mid-semester Break	
10-17	Pluto and UB313	
10-18	Exam 2	
10-22	Radiation & Spectroscopy	Ch. 2
10-24	Our Sun	Ch. 9
10-25	Our Sun	Ch. 9
10-29	Measuring the Stars	Ch. 10
10-31	Interstellar Medium	Ch. 11
11-1	Birth of Stars	Ch. 12
11-5	Death of Stars	Ch. 12
11-7	Death of Stars	Ch. 12
11-8	No Class – Field Trip	
11-12	Death of Stars	Ch. 12
11-14	Exam 3	
11-15	Neutron Stars & Black Holes	Ch. 13
11-19	Milky Way (Galaxy – not the candy bar)	Ch. 14
11-21	No Class – Turkey Day Break	
11-22	No Class – Turkey Day Break	
11-26	Another Milky Way day	Ch. 14
11-28	Galaxies	Ch. 15
11-29	Cosmology	Ch. 17
12-3	Constellation Review	
12-5	Cosmology	Ch. 17
12-6	Life in the Universe?	Ch. 18

Final Exam – Thursday Dec 13th, 12:00 p.m.

Lab Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8-27	No Lab
9-3	Labor Day – No lab again!!
9-10	Introduction to the Planetarium
9-17	Celestial coordinates & constellations
9-24	Moon
10-1	Planets
10-8	Lab Midterm Exam
10-15	Fall Break - No Lab !!!
10-22	Seasons
10-29	Stellar Spectra
11-5	Red Shifts
11-12	Constellation Lore
11-19	No Lab – Turkey Day Break
11-26	Astrology is not Astronomy
12-3	Lab Final Exam

Class Policies & Procedures

Attendance:

It is imperative that you attend all scheduled classes and labs. Attendance will not be taken in lectures. However, it is **your** responsibility to get any homework assignments which may have been given in class and the lecture material (some of which may not be covered in the text). Attendance **will** be taken in lab. If you miss a lab, you will be allowed to make up the material if you have a verified excuse (i.e. substantiated medical or family emergency). The missed assignment must be turned within 1 week to receive full credit for the exercise.

Exams:

All exams will be given according to the schedule on the first page. You **MUST** notify me in advance if you are going to miss an exam. Make-up exams will be given **ONLY** if you have a substantiated emergency (i.e. medical emergency, death in family etc.).

Grades:

Lecture:

4 exams @ 15% each 60%

Lab:

Lab exercises & Homework 10%
2 exams @ 15% each 30%

If necessary, I will adjust the grade scale for each exam *upwards* to a class mean of 75%. No extra credit assignments will be given. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

93 – 100%	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89 %	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
63 – 66%	D
60 – 62%	D-
Below 60%	F