

Astronomy 201: The Sun and its Planets

Syllabus, summer 2016

Professor: Jeff Kriessler
Office: 551 Sears
Email: jrkl2@case.edu
Office hours: before/after class or by appointment.
Class TWTH, 10:30-12:00

Textbook: *The Cosmic Perspective The Solar System 7th edition:* by Bennett, Donahue, Scheider, and Voit

Class Web Page: <http://astroweb.astr.cwru.edu/jeffk/201.html>

On the web page will be posted the course schedule, lecture notes, reading and homework assignments

Course Philosophy:

This course will introduce the student to physics as applied to the study of astronomy. Through the study of the scientific method and the use of scientific models, students will gain an understanding of the scale of the universe and our place in it. This course will strive to relate how our understanding of the laws of physics informs our view of the cosmos to our life here on Earth while developing an appreciation for the universe around us.

Required Coursework:

Lectures will be interactive with each student expected to participate in the discussions. It is encouraged that the reading assignments be completed before the lectures. In addition there will be daily in-class exercises such as short writing assignments, quizzes, and group projects which will count toward the participation portion of the grade. The lowest three participation grades will be dropped at the end of the term, but otherwise no make-ups will be given due to absence.

There will be two in-class exams. The exams will consist primarily of essay questions in which the student will be asked to explain the concepts in the text and those gone over in class, no mathematical problems. The student will be allowed to use one 8x11 inch sheet of notes with writing on one side only.

Grading:

10% participation
30% weekly homework due Tuesdays
60% 2 in-class exams

Final grades will be computed from the grading scale:

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89.9% = B
70% - 79.9% = C
60% - 69.9% = D
59.9% - 0% = F

Your grade will be continuously updated on blackboard and you are encouraged to keep track of this throughout the term in order to ensure all grades have been entered correctly. Any discrepancies should be reported as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule:

(See course website for an up to date listing of reading assignments)

Week 1: Chapters 1, 2 & S1
Week 2: Chapters 3 & 4
Week 3: Chapters 5, 6 & 7
Week 4: Chapters 8 & 14
Week 5: Exam 1
Week 6: Chapter 9
Week 7: Chapters 10 & 11
Week 8: Chapter 12