

AST 103 Sect. 002, Spring 2008

Introductory Astronomy: The Solar System

Professor: Daniel Proga
 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 Tel: 895-3507, Email: dproga@physics.unlv.edu
 Class time: Mondays/Wednesdays 10:00-11:15 am, BPB 102
 Textbook: "The Cosmic Perspective" by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider and Voit
 Notes: <http://www.physics.unlv.edu/~dproga/AST103S08.html>
 Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 pm, BPB Rm. 240

Week	Date	Subject	Reading
1	Jan. 21	M. L. King Jr. Day	
	Jan. 23	Overview	Ch. 1
2	Jan. 28	The Universe 1	Ch. 2
	Jan, 30	The Universe 2	Ch. 2
3	Feb. 4	Astronomy as Science	Ch. 3
	Feb. 6	Astronomy as Science	Ch. 3
4	Feb. 11	Time and Navigation	Ch. S1
	Feb. 13	Review 1	
5	Feb. 18	President's Day	
	Feb. 20	Test 1	
6	Feb. 25	Motion/Energy/Gravity	Ch. 4
	Feb. 27	Light and Matter	Ch. 5
7	March 3	Telescopes	Ch. 6
	March 5	Our Planetary System	Ch. 7
8	March 10	Formation of planets	Ch. 8
	March 12	Planetary Geology 1	Ch. 9
9	March 17	Spring Break	
	March 19	Spring Break	
10	March 24	Planetary Geology 2	Ch. 9
	March 26	Review 2	
11	March 31	Test 2	
	April 2	Planetary Atmospheres	Ch. 10
12	April 7	Planetary Atmospheres	Ch. 10
	April 9	Jovian Planets 1	Ch. 11
13	April 14	Jovian Planets 2	Ch. 11
	April 16	Asteroids, Comets, etc.	Ch. 12
14	April 21	Other Systems	Ch. 13
	April 23	Life in the Universe	Ch. 24
15	April 28	Review 3	
	April 30	Test 3	
16	May 5	Wilder issues/Review	
	May 7	Q&A	
17	May 12	Final	

Exams, tests & scores:

- There will be three tests (Feb. 20, March 31, April 30). Each test lasts for 1 hour and there are 50 pts for each test. No make up tests will be made, but the lowest score in the three tests will be dropped. The maximum score from the three tests is 100 pts.
- The final exam will be on Monday, May 12-th at 10:10 am. It will last 1 and 1/2 hours. The maximum score is 75 pts.
- There will be 25 pts assigned for attendance. Attendance will be checked randomly 5 times during the semester, and each time the attendants will get 5 pts.
- The maximum score for the class will be 200 pts.
- Final letter grades will be assigned based on the total numerical score (= score from two tests+ final+ attendance points).

Other information:

- This is a survey course at the beginning level, which discusses our place in the Universe, astronomy as science, and our and other planetary systems. Topics will include history of astronomy, formation of planetary systems, properties of planets and their atmospheres, properties of other objects in the solar system A minimum of mathematics is required. Recommended for non-science majors. 3 credits.
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