

AST 103 Sect. 002, Spring 2009

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 01:00pm-02:15 pm, BPB 102
 Textbook: "The Cosmic Perspective" by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit
 Notes: <http://www.physics.unlv.edu/~dproga/AST103S09.html>
 Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 pm, BPB Rm. 240

| Week | Date | Subject | Reading |
|------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Jan. 12 | Overview | Ch. 1 |
| | Jan. 14 | The Universe 1 | Ch. 2 |
| 2 | Jan. 19 | M. L. King Jr. Day The | |
| | Jan, 21 | The Universe 2 | Ch. 2 |
| 3 | Jan. 26 | Astronomy as Science1 | Ch. 3 |
| | Jan. 28 | Astronomy as Science2 | Ch. 3 |
| 4 | Feb. 2 | Time and Navigation | Ch. S1 |
| | Feb. 4 | Motion/Energy/Gravity | Ch. 4 |
| 5 | Feb. 9 | Review 1 | |
| | Feb. 11 | Test 1 | |
| 6 | Feb. 16 | President's Day | |
| | Feb. 18 | Light and Matter | Ch. 5 |
| 7 | Feb. 23 | Telescopes | Ch. 6 |
| | Feb. 25 | Our Planetary System | Ch. 7 |
| 8 | March 2 | Formation of planets | Ch. 8 |
| | March 4 | Planetary Geology 1 | Ch. 9 |
| 9 | March 9 | Planetary Geology 2 | Ch. 9 |
| | March 11 | Review 2 | |
| 10 | March 16 | Test 2 | |
| | March 18 | Planetary Atmospheres | Ch. 10 |
| 11 | March 23 | Planetary Atmospheres | Ch. 10 |
| | March 25 | Jovian Planets 1 | Ch. 11 |
| 12 | March 30 | Jovian Planets 2 | Ch. 11 |
| | April 1 | Asteroids, Comets, etc | Ch. 12 |
| 13 | April 6 | Spring Break | |
| | April 8 | Spring Break. | |
| 14 | April 13 | Other Systems | Ch. 13 |
| | April 15 | Life in the Universe | Ch. 24 |
| 15 | April 20 | Review 3 | |
| | April 22 | Test 3 | |
| 16 | April 27 | Wider Issues/Review | |
| | April 29 | Q&A | |
| 17 | May 4 | Final | |

Exams, tests & scores:

- There will be three tests (Feb. 11, March 16, April 22). 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 4-th at 01:00 pm. 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.
- The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-652, FAX (702) 895-0651. *For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.*
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