

# AST 103 Sect. 001, Spring 2014

## 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](mailto: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: WebCampus (see also <http://www.physics.unlv.edu/~dproga/AST103S14.html>)

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 am, BPB Rm. 240

Week	Date	Subject	Reading
1	Jan. 20	M. L. King Jr. Day	
	Jan. 22	Overview	Ch. 1
2	Jan. 27	The Universe 1	Ch. 2
	Jan. 29	The Universe 2	Ch. 2
3	Feb. 3	Astronomy as Science	Ch. 3
	Feb. 5	Astronomy as Science	Ch. 3
4	Feb. 10	Time and Navigation	Ch. S1
	Feb. 12	Motion/Energy/Gravity	Ch. 4
5	Feb. 17	President's Day	
	Feb. 19	Review 1	
6	<b>Feb. 24</b>	<b>Test 1</b>	
	Feb. 26	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	<b>March 31</b>	<b>Test 2</b>	
	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	
	<b>April 30</b>	<b>Test 3</b>	
16	May 5	Wilder issues/Review	
	May 7	Q&A	
17	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Final</b>	

### Course description:

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

### Learning outcomes:

- The outcomes will include familiarity with the key physical processes operating on earth and planets, and in the solar as well as other planetary systems. In addition, the course will enhance students' critical thinking and appreciation of astronomy as a global/multicultural/interdisciplinary activity that generations have benefited from on very many different levels.

### Exams, tests & scores:

- There will be three tests (Feb. 24, March 31, and 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 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:

**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the

Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

**Copyright** – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to me during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me before or after class to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy** – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **January 31**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university that could not have reasonably been avoided. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

**Incomplete Grades** - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed all course work up to the withdrawal date of that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. A student who receives an I is responsible for making up whatever work was lacking at the end of the semester. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring** – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

**UNLV Writing Center** – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

**Rebelmail** – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu).