

AST 103

Introductory Astronomy: The Solar System

Stephen Lepp

August 17, 2020

Class Time: TTh 1:00 - 2:15 held on WebCampus
 Lectures will be posted, Office Hours and Exams held during class time
 Text: *The Cosmic Perspective* 9th by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider and Voit
 homepage: <http://www.physics.unlv.edu/~lepp/classes/ast103>

Week	Date(s)	Subject(s)	Reading
1	8/25 • 8/27	Overview • Observing	Ch 1, 2
2	9/1 • 9/3	Navigation • Science of Astronomy	Ch 3
3	9/8 • 9/10	Motion, Energy and Gravity • Review	Ch 4
4	9/15 • 9/17	Test • Light and Matter	Ch 5
Test 1 (ch 1-4) on September 15			
5	9/22 • 9/24	Telescopes • Our Planetary System	Ch 6,7
6	9/29 • 10/1	Formation of Solar System • Review	Ch 8
7	10/6 • 10/8	Test • Planetary Geology	Ch 9
Test 2 (ch 5-8) on October 6			
8	10/13 • 10/15	Planetary Geology • Planetary Atmospheres	Ch 9,10
9	10/20 • 10/22	Planetary Atmospheres • Giant Planets	Ch 10,11
10	10/27 • 10/29	Giant Planets 2 • Review	
11	11/3 • 11/5	TEST • Astroids, Comets and Dwarf Planets	Ch 12
Test 3 (ch 9-11) on November 3			
12	11/10 • 11/12	Astroids, Comets and Dwarf Planets	Ch 12
13	11/17 • 11/19	Exoplanets	Ch 13
14	11/24	Exoplanets or Review	
15	12/1 • 12/3	Study Week and Reveiw	
Final Exam Tue. Dec. 8 at 1:00 – 3:00			

Remote Teaching

This class is being run as a Remote Learning class due to Covid-19. As such the class lectures will be posted online instead of in person classes. I will post lectures on Sunday and they will remain online for the entire week. Then they will be taken down and the next weeks lectures will be posted.

Grading

The grading for the course will be based on 300 points total. The points will come from the following:

- Quizzes (100pts) There will be 10 quizzes. They will be given the first ten weeks of class that don't have exams. Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13. Quizzes are 10 pts each for a total of 100 pts.
- Exams (100 pts) There will be three exams 50 pts each on the dates listed above. The lowest exam will be dropped and so your top two exams will contribute 100 pts to your final grade. The exams will be given on webcampus during our class time on the dates listed.
- Final (100 pts) The final exam will be comprehensive and will count for 100 pts. The final exam will be given on webcampus during our final exam time for our class (Tues. Dec. 8 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm).

Your final grade in points will be based on the sum of your score on the quizzes on the top two hour exams (drop the lowest) and final. Modifications to the contribution of each part or to the percentage cutoff for each grade may be made based on the progress of the class.

Learning Outcomes

The students will have a broad understanding of Astronomy and the Solar System. They will also gain an appreciation of Science and the Scientific Method and how it may be used to increase our knowledge about the Universe and ultimately inform our decision making.