ASTR 100: Introductory Astronomy
Spring 2013

Instructor: Aaron Steinhauer
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Office: ISC 217
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Office Hours: Wed 9:30 – 11:00 am
Thu 11:30 – 12:30 pm

Class Meets: TR 10:00 – 11:15 am,
Newton 202

Textbook: *The Cosmic Perspective* by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider & Voit, 6th ed.

Exams: #1 Thursday, February 15
#2 Thursday, March 15
#3 Thursday, April 18

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 14, 12:00–3:00 pm

Grading:
25% Homework
45% Midterm Exams (15% each)
25% Final Exam
5% PRS Clicker Participation

Homework: There will be weekly on-line homework assignments throughout the semester. These will give you a chance to test yourself on the material before the exam, practice typical problems and give you a basis for your grade other than exams. These assignments will be completed on-line so I encourage you to begin them well ahead of the due date to resolve any computer issues that may arise. Late homework is automatically penalized according to how late it is, up to 24 hours. Late homework will be accepted at 50% credit.

Final Grade Scale

93-100%	A
90-93%	A–
87-90%	B+
83-87%	B
80-83%	B–
77-80%	C+
73-77%	C
70-73%	C–
55-70%	D
0-55%	F

Exams: There will be three midterms and one final examination in this class. Exams will be multiple-choice and will draw from ideas covered in class, homework and the reading from the book. There will be questions that are quantitative in nature, so you are advised to bring a scientific calculator with you (ie. with an EXP or EE key). The final exam will cover material from the entire course.

PRS Clicker: We will be using PRS remote clickers for in-class assessment and participation. Most questions will be worth two points: one for answering the question and one for getting it correct. You are responsible for bringing your clicker to class each day and keeping it maintained (batteries, etc). Course credit for the clickers will be scaled such that any total clicker score over 80% will receive a 100% overall clicker score.

Extra Credit: It is my policy to *not* give extra credit assignments. There may be one or two opportunities throughout the semester to gain a small amount of extra credit work for participating in an activity or event.

Math: Astronomy is a physical science and, as such, it is impossible to learn at the university level without using math. Although some in this class may have some math anxiety, let me assure you that we will not be doing anything this semester at a level beyond high school algebra. If you are concerned about the mathematical content of this course, please come see me at office hours soon. I am happy to go over the basics with you individually, but the sooner we do this, the better off you will be. Appendix C in the text also contains a summary of most of the mathematical concepts we will cover in class.

Gen Ed: In order for this course to fulfill your Natural Science General Education requirement, it must be taken concurrently with the laboratory course ASTR 101. General Education courses at Geneseo are geared to ensure standardized learning outcomes. In the Natural Sciences, the learning outcome states that students will demonstrate:

- the ability to analyze data;
- understanding of the methods scientists use to explore natural phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical analysis;
- the ability to apply scientific data, concepts, and models.

Weekly Schedule (Tentative):

Week #	Date	Topic		Chapters
1	Jan 22, 24	Introduction, the Scale of the Universe		1
2	Jan 29, 31	Motions of the Sky		S1, 2
3	Feb 5, 7	Moon, History of Astronomy		2, 3
4	Feb 12, 15	Gravity, Tides	EXAM #1 – Thu	4
5	Feb 19, 22	Light and Telescopes		5, 6
6	Feb 26, 28	Terrestrial and Jovian Planets		7, 9, 10, 11
7	Mar 5, 7	Pluto, Extra-solar planets		12, 13
8	Mar 12, 15	The Sun	EXAM #2 – Thu	14
9	Mar 19, 21	*SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES*		
10	Mar 25, 28	Stars		15
11	Apr 2, 4	Star Birth and Middle Age		16
12	Apr 9, 11	Star Lives and Deaths		17, 18
13	Apr 16*, 18		EXAM #3 – Thu	
14	Apr 23, 25	The Milky Way		19
15	A 30, M 2	Galaxies, Cosmology		20, 22
16	May 7	Fate of the Universe		23

* GREAT Day on Tuesday, no classes