

## Descriptive Astronomy 2010 (Online Section) Syllabus - Pruneau - FALL 2016

- PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS BEFORE WRITING TO OR CALLING THE INSTRUCTOR WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE.

Prerequisites: none (although high school algebra is assumed)

### Intended audience:

- General audience including science and non-science majors.
- Minimal knowledge of mathematics (elementary algebra) and sciences.
- Ideal for Students seeking to satisfy their GEN-ED Science requirement.
- Must have access to a computer and be familiar to browser usage.
- Must have email access and read Wayne State email REGULARLY.
- **Must be familiar with the WAYNE STATE BLACKBOARD system.**

### Synopsis:

This course is an elementary introduction and survey of Astronomy. It covers a very large range of introductory topics including: The Sky, Orbits and Gravity, Earth-Moon-Sun System, Electromagnetic Radiation, Telescopes, The Solar System, Planet Earth, The Moon, Inner Planets, Outer Planets, Minor Bodies of the Solar System, The Sun, The Stars, Stellar Evolution, Relativity and Black Holes, The Milky Way, Galaxies, Quasars and Active Galaxies, Order in the Universe, Big Bang Cosmology.

### Course Format:

The course material/content is comprised of reading materials from the **course textbook** (see below) and **online materials** delivered through **BLACKBOARD** and the **CENGAGE MindTap** website.

- Blackboard:
  - Announcements
  - Power point lectures
  - Assignments.
- MindTap (accessible via Blackboard link)
  - Reading assignments,
  - Check-In Assignments and Post Tests for Chapters 1, and 6, 7, ..., 26.
  - Videos and animations
  - and more...

### Instructor:

Professor Claude A Pruneau,

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- ◆ E-Mail : [aa7526@wayne.edu](mailto:aa7526@wayne.edu)
- ◆ Website: <http://rhig.physics.wayne.edu/~pruneau/>
- ◆ Office phone: 313 577 1813, FAX: 313 577 3932
- ◆ Office: Room 322, Physics Building, Wayne State University
- ◆ **If I cannot be reached at my office**, try leaving a message for me at 313 577 2750.
- ◆ **Communication via blackboard and email preferred.**

### Office Hours:

- ◆ If you need to meet me in person, please contact me **by email** to make an appointment, and I will be happy to meet with you at my office to answer questions or discuss any issues you may have encountered.

### Blackboard System (<http://blackboard.wayne.edu>)

- ◆ Blackboard is used for general information and announcements related to the course.
- ◆ Blackboard also provides access to the instructor's POWER POINT lectures, which complement the textbook and the online material.
- ◆ If you are not familiar with Blackboard, obtain your login ID, and password as soon as possible and immediately test your ability to log on, navigate, and understand Blackboard's different features.
- ◆ Blackboard is also used for assignments.

### MindTap

- ◆ Mindtap is used to access all course elements (including the textbook), and various preparation tests, reading quizzes, and chapter post-tests.
- ◆ NO NEED TO READ CHAPTERS 2, 3, 4, and 5 of MindTap. They are replaced by my three special chapters - accessible in Blackboard.
- ◆ You access MindTap via blackboard:
  - ◆ Log in Blackboard
  - ◆ Navigate to your AST2010 course
  - ◆ Click on the MindTap tab (on the left hand-side menu)
  - ◆ Click on **AST2010 Pruneau Fall 2016** link

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The screenshot shows the Blackboard LMS interface for the course 'MindtapAccess - AST\_2010'. The page header includes 'WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY' and 'My Blackboard'. The course title is '(Course is unavailable to students) > MindtapAccess'. The left navigation menu lists items: 'Fall 2015 (PS) Descriptive Ast Sec 001 (AST\_2010\_1509\_001)', 'Announcements', 'Syllabus', 'MindtapAccess', 'Final Exam', 'Planetarium Quizzes', 'Power Points and PDFs', and 'Content'. A red arrow points to 'MindtapAccess'. The main content area shows 'MindtapAccess' with a sub-menu containing 'Build Content', 'Assessments', 'Tools', and 'Partner Content'. A red arrow points to 'Tools'. A box highlights the text 'AST 2010 Pruneau FALL 2016'.

### Course ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Course related general announcements will be carried out through the Blackboard system, and by email.
- ◆ Logon to the BLACKBOARD website to see announcements and read your **University email** on a regular basis (e.g. at least every other day) to stay up-to-date with class information.
- ◆ **Make sure your University E-MAIL BOX is NOT FULL.**

### In-class Lectures: NONE

There are no in-class lectures within the context of this AST2010 online section. However, lecture notes in the form of power points are posted both on Blackboard. These power points are from lectures that I and other instructors have given in the in-class sections and are part of the required reading for the online section.

### Textbook (ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED - NO EXCEPTION):

- ◆ **Foundations of Astronomy by Seeds, Backman, and Pruneau, 3rd Edition**, Brooks/Cole Cengage Publisher; Available exclusively at Barnes and Noble on campus in a looseleaf format and specially priced for Wayne State students and **BUNDLED with MINDTAP ACCESS.**

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- ◆ **The textbook and Mindtap access are required (No exception).**
- ◆ It is imperative you read the textbook and MindTap materials on a regular basis and do not wait till the last minute to learn the material.
- ◆ **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET A COPY OF THE TEXTBOOK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN READ AND LEARN THE MATERIAL NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE WEEKLY QUIZZES and tests delivered through Blackboard and Mindtap.**

## Reading and Tests

- ◆ Reading and Tests Assignments are given weekly -- **see the schedule in MindTap.**
- ◆ Reading material include the textbook (either in hardcopy or online through Mindtap), and the lecture notes posted in Blackboard.
- ◆ Mindtap uses a WORKFLOW Schedule to present you with all reading and homework assignments selected for you by your instructor. Log into Mindtap and select the calendar view (at the top of the page).

The screenshot shows the MindTap interface for the course 'Foundations of Astronomy, 13th...'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MindTap logo and a 'View' menu. A red arrow points to the 'View' menu icon with the text 'Click HERE'. Below the navigation bar, there is a table of assignments with columns for 'Available Date' and 'Due Date'. The assignments are organized into folders and sub-folders.

	Available Date	Due Date
Expanding the Sky (Chapters 1-6)		
1: Here and Now		
Chapter 1 Pre-Test	Sep 1 at 12 AM EDT	Sep 20 at 11 PM EDT
The Most Astounding Fact - Neil d...	Sep 1 at 12 AM EDT	Sep 20 at 11 PM EDT
Readings: Here and Now		
Chapter Introduction	Sep 1 at 12 AM EDT	Sep 20 at 11 PM EDT
Where Are You?	Sep 1 at 12 AM EDT	Sep 20 at 11 PM EDT
Chapter 1-1 Check-in	Sep 1 at 12 AM EDT	Sep 20 at 11 PM EDT

- ◆ Click on an assignment to start it and read the instructions. You will find pre-tests (not graded), which you should attempt prior to reading the material, in-chapter quizzes (called check-in within mindtap) which you must take while reading the material (graded and included in your final score), and post-chapters tests, which you should take after completing your reading of the material and exercises of a chapter (these constitute the main portion of your final grade).
- ◆ There are 26 chapters in the textbook and they are essentially all covered. Note (again) that the original Seeds/Backman chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 are not required material AND are replaced by my 3 special chapters available both in the printed version of the special edition and Mind Tap. That means there are two chapters covered per week!! That's a lot of reading but remember this is a 4 credit course and plenty of other students have completed this course quite successfully (i.e., with an A).
- ◆ The reading and test-assignment schedule is provided in Mindtap. Typically, you have two weeks to complete your reading and the relevant assignments. Two weeks is plenty of time

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to complete the reading and tests. Look at the Mindtap workflow schedule on a regular basis and make sure your work is completed in time.

- ◆ Notes:
  - ◆ Extensions beyond the two-week periods provided will be granted **ONLY UNDER EXTREME** circumstances... “I forgot” or “I needed to travel...” **do not constitute** acceptable reasons for extension.
  - ◆ Each chapter and included activities are available for two weeks. I do not try to micro-manage your reading on a daily basis because most of my students have busy class schedules, and often have part-time jobs. It is thus **YOUR** responsibility to make sure all your required work is completed within the two weeks allotted to each chapter!!!!!!!!!!!!
  - ◆ Since a number of students may have to wait for grants to afford the book and mind tap access, I give everyone 3 weeks (from the start of class) to complete the **first two** chapters.

## Quizzes, pre- and post- tests:

- ◆ Follow the workflow schedule available in MindTap. It will show you the assignments to be completed on a (bi-) weekly basis. **ONLY Check-In and Post-test assignments are counted!!!!** You have multiple attempts on Check-in and in-chapter quizzes, while you have only **one** attempt for the chapter **post-tests**. All scores are viewable from the Mindtap grade-book.

## Final Exam:

The final exam will be taken online via Mindtap during the last week of the semester (Finals week).

## Planetarium Shows

- ◆ *Two shows for AST2010 at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences planetarium will be scheduled and presented.*
- ◆ *These shows are a **REQUIRED** part of the course – attendance is taken and I will receive a list of attendees **at the end** of the semester. They count for a total of 5% of your grade.*
- ◆ *There will be an online quiz for each planetarium show and you will receive up to 1% **extra credit** for taking each quiz, based on your performance.*
- ◆ *The planetarium has a limited/small number of seats. Many presentations of each show will therefore be scheduled.*
- ◆ *Dates and times of the presentations will be posted on the planetarium website. <http://physics.wayne.edu/~planetarium> and on blackboard.*
- ◆ *The planetarium is located at the lower level of the Old Main Building.*

## Other Extra-Credit Work

- ◆ Extra credit work will be allowed and scheduled under **very special circumstances only**.

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- ◆ If approved, the extra credit work will consist of a 10 page long (double spacing) essay on a topic chosen by your instructor.

### Student E-Mails:

- ◆ Look for announcements on BLACKBOARD.
- ◆ Please follow proper etiquette in your emails and address your instructor as “Professor Pruneau” or “Mr. Pruneau”. Rude or improper emails will not be answered...
- ◆ Please be patient - there are many students in this class...

### Evaluation of Learning:

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following items:

Check-in and Chapter POST-TESTs:	80%
Final exam:	15%
Planetarium Attendance (Each show 2.5%):	5%
Total:	100%
Planetarium Quizzes Extra credit (Each):	1%

Final grades letters will be attributed according to the following table.

A	95 - 100 %
A-	90 - 94
B+	85 - 89
B	80 - 84
B-	75 - 79
C+	70 - 74
C	65 - 69
C-	60 - 64
D	50 - 59
F	otherwise

### Laboratory:

- ◆ The laboratory is a separate course (AST2011) - graded separately/independently - with a different instructor.
- ◆ The laboratory is required for all students taking Astronomy 2010+2011 for 4+1=5 credits.
- ◆ The astronomy 2010 laboratory manual must be purchased by those registered for Astronomy 2010+2011 for 4+1=5 credits.
- ◆ While the lab is not required for all programs, it is **highly** recommended.

### Observation of the Sky - LABORATORY COURSE ONLY

- ◆ Two evenings of observation are scheduled during the semester.
- ◆ Observations are carried on the roof of the Physics building during clear nights.
- ◆ It is extremely valuable to study the manual prior to coming to the laboratory.

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- ◆ Laboratory reports are due at the start of the following week lab.
- ◆ For further details, please inquire with Dr. Scott Payson at 313-577-3280

### Important Notes:

- ◆ There is a large amount of material in this class.
- ◆ It is absolutely critical you do not wait till the last minute to prepare for the exams (i.e. Post-tests).
- ◆ Read the chapters and take the assignments via Mindtap on a regular basis.

### Other textbooks of interest

- ◆ Voyages Through the Universe, Fraknoi, Morrison, and Wolff, Saunders Publisher.
- ◆ The Cosmic Perspective, Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, Voit, Addison-Wesley Publisher.
- ◆ The Origin and Evolution of the Universe, Zuckerman, Matthew, Malkan, Jones and Bartlett Publisher.
- ◆ Astronomy, A beginner's Guide to the Universe, Chaisson and McMillan, Pearson Prentice Hall Publisher.
- ◆ Astronomy Journey to the Cosmic Frontier, J. D. Fix, McGrawHill Publisher, 2nd edition.
- ◆ Redshift, B. Walker, Harcourt.
- ◆ Discovering the Universe, Comins and Kaufmann III, Freeman Publisher.

### Learning Outcomes

After completing this class, you are expected to ...

- ◆ Understand the basic cycles experienced by humans
  - ◆ Why we have Day and Night
  - ◆ Why we have Seasons
  - ◆ Why we use a calendar based on 7 day weeks, and approximately 30 day month, and years
- ◆ Understand your place in the Universe and the basic hierarchy of the Universe and the various processes that take place within it.
  - ◆ Solar System:
    - ◆ Why we know the Earth revolves around the Sun
    - ◆ Understand the structure of the solar system, and know basic facts about the planets
    - ◆ Have basic knowledge of the basic principles that determine the formation of the solar system, and its evolution
    - ◆ Understand at a basic level the techniques used by scientists to estimate the age of the Earth at 4.5 billion years.
    - ◆ Know there are other solar systems, and understand at a basic level the methods used by astronomers to detect them.
  - ◆ Stars:
    - ◆ Understand the Sun is a medium size star among several billion others in our galaxy, the Milky Way.
    - ◆ Understand the basic classification of stars
    - ◆ Understand the basic steps in the birth, evolution, and death of stars
    - ◆ Be familiar with some exotic objects such as neutron stars, and black holes.

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- ◆ Understand that all elements heavier than helium were synthesized in stars or supernova explosions - which is why astronomers say we are “star dust”
- ◆ Galaxies
  - ◆ Be familiar with the basic steps involved in the discovery of galaxies
  - ◆ Be familiar with basic classifications of galaxies, their attributes, and evolution
  - ◆ Be familiar with the existence of larger structures known as clusters and super clusters.
- ◆ Cosmology
  - ◆ Be familiar with the notion that all galaxies are receding from one another and what it means
  - ◆ Understand at a basic level the evidence for a big bang
  - ◆ Understand at a basic level the techniques used by astronomers to estimate the age of the universe
  - ◆ Understand that the notion that the Universe is infinite in size but that we can only see the fraction within the cosmic horizon.
- ◆ The question of the origins
  - ◆ Have a basic understanding of the evidence for geological ages on Earth, and the biological evolution of species
  - ◆ Have a basic understanding of the origins of the Earth and the Solar System
  - ◆ Have a basic understanding of the origins and evolution of stars and galaxies
  - ◆ Have a basic understanding of the evolution of the Universe since the big bang
- ◆ The Scientific Method
  - ◆ Understand the basic principles of the scientific method
  - ◆ Understand the notions of hypothesis, model, theory, law of nature
  - ◆ Understand at a basic level the process whereby scientists use facts, obtained by quantitative measurements of natural phenomena, to compare the merits of models, and formulate an increasingly more accurate model (theory) of nature.
- ◆ Basic Scientific Theories
  - ◆ Have basic familiarity with physics principles of velocity, acceleration, energy, potential energy, force, pressure.
  - ◆ Have basic familiarity with fundamental laws of nature including conservation of energy, conservation of momentum, conservation of angular momentum
  - ◆ Have basic familiarity with theories about the structure of matter and forces, including the structure of the atom, structure of the nucleus, existence of several classes of elementary particles, and the fundamental forces that rule them.
  - ◆ Have basic understanding of the nature of light and electromagnetic waves, and their properties, including the notions of wavelength, frequency, amplitude, and velocity.
  - ◆ Have basic familiarity with the four fundamental forces of gravity, electromagnetism, strong nuclear force, and weak nuclear force.

## Religious holidays

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.



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Note, however, that you are given fourteen days to complete each assignment, either homework or exam (post-test and final), so you can most likely organize your study and work schedule and have plenty of time to complete the assignments.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY: telecommunication device for the deaf; phone for hearing impaired students only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

See the SDS website for more information: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and Cheating (edited statement from the DOSO's web site):

Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html>).

Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

**Cheating:**

Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student's test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam.

**Fabrication:**

Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.

**Plagiarism:**

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To take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student's access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

### **Course Drops and Withdrawals:**

In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Pipeline. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at: <http://reg.wayne.edu/pdf-policies/students.pdf>