

Descriptive Astronomy (AST2010 901 - CRN 21746) Syllabus Winter 2012

Time & Location: Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, WSU Oakland Center, Room 428

Instructor: Matt Taylor (mftaylor@wayne.edu)

Text: Pathways to Astronomy, by Schneider and Arny, 3rd Edition
ISBN-10: 0073512133, ISBN-13: 978-0073512136

The class is for a general audience including science and non-science majors.
Only a minimal knowledge of mathematics (elementary algebra) and sciences are required.

Schedule:

Date	Lecture Topics	Quiz/Exam	Text Chapters
Jan 14	Introduction	(none)	(none)
Jan 21	The Sky, Timekeeping	Quiz	1 - 7
Jan 28	Solar & Lunar Cycles, History of Astronomy	Quiz	8 - 13
Feb 4	Mass, Motion and Gravity	Quiz	14 - 20
Feb 11	Light and Other Electromagnetic Radiation	Exam	21 - 25
Feb 18	Methods of Measuring Light, Telescopes	Quiz	28 - 32
Feb 25	Intro. to the Solar System, Earth and Moon	Quiz	34 - 39
Mar 3	The Inner Planets and Asteroids	Quiz	40 - 44
Mar 10	The Outer Planets and Comets	Exam	45 - 50
Mar 17	Spring Break		
Mar 24	The Sun and Other Nearby Stars	Quiz	51 - 58
Mar 31	Main Sequence, Giant and Variable Stars	Quiz	59 - 64
Apr 7	White Dwarfs, Neutron Stars and Black Holes	Quiz	65 - 69
Apr 14	Star Clusters and Galaxies	Exam	70 - 78
Apr 24	The Universe, Astrobiology	Quiz	79 - 86
Apr 28	Final Exam		

Each quiz covers material from the preceding lecture.

Each mid-term exam covers material since the last mid-term exam.

The final exam is cumulative; it covers material from the entire semester.

Information on planetarium shows will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Grading:

10 Weekly Quizzes	40%	(4% each quiz)
3 Mid-Term Exams	30%	(10% each exam)
2 Planetarium Shows	20%	(10% each show)
Final Exam	10%	

Final Grade:

A (95 %) **A-**(90%) **B+**(85%) **B**(80%) **B-**(75%) **C+**(70%) **C**(65%) **C-**(60%) **D+**(50%) **D**(<50%)

Extra Credit Project: Students may optionally complete a ten minute in-class presentation, or a 2-3 page paper on the Astronomy topic of their choice, adding up to +10% to their final grade.

Make-Up Test Policy: Make-up tests are not offered except in case of a documented emergency, however each quiz and exam has extra credit questions. Extra credit can compensate for any quizzes or exams that you miss.