

AST 100: Astronomy Today
Fall 2016

Instructor

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ESS 456
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Course Description

This course is a seminar designed to introduce students to the excitement of modern astronomy, focusing on the most recent discoveries, as reported in the media. The course provides sufficient scientific background to enable students to understand the impact of these discoveries.

Class Meeting

M 4:00–4:53, ESS 181

Office Hours

M 5:00–6:00, Tu 11:30–12:30 and by appointment

Course Web Site

Course information and announcements will be posted on the course Blackboard web site.

Text

There is no text for the course.

Final Exam

There is no final exam for the course.

Class Logistics

Each student will make a single presentation and will participate in the discussions of the other students' presentations. For each presentation topic, a thread on the course Blackboard discussion forum will be set up for discussion of the topic before the presentation. Each presentation will be 15 to 20 minutes long, after which the class will discuss the topic together as a group, which will include answering questions posted to the discussion forum of the topic.

Presenter Responsibilities

- Students will pick a topic based on a recent discovery or interesting result in astronomy. Students should generally pick their topics at least two weeks before their presentations (although this requirement will be relaxed for presentations early in the semester).
- Each student will lead the discussion of his or her topic by preparing a 15 to 20 presentation about the topic. If the student is not prepared or if the presentation is inadequate, then the student may be asked to present again at a later date.
- The student presenter and the instructor will field questions about the topic from the class.

Non-presenter Responsibilities

- Students must attend both presentations each week—attendance will be taken
- Students will prepare a brief (about one page typed) evaluation of each presenter’s presentation, providing feedback on presentation style and delivery, content, and what was learned.
- Students will contribute to the Blackboard discussion forum for *one* topic each week by asking a *meaningful* question about the topic (i.e. not something like “why did you pick this topic?”) or by sharing more information about the topic. Grades for these contributions will be recorded each week. *Contributions are due before the class in which the topic is presented.*

Course Grade

The course grade will be based on the presentation (60%), participation in the Blackboard discussion forum (20%), and attendance and feedback write ups (20%).

Extra Credit

There is no possibility of extra credit.

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic
1	8/29	Overview
	9/5	No class
2	9/12	Astronomy overview
3	9/19	Student presentations
4	9/26	Student presentations
5	10/3	Student presentations
6	10/10	Student presentations
7	10/17	Student presentations
8	10/24	Student presentations
9	10/31	Student presentations
10	11/7	Student presentations
11	11/14	Student presentations
12	11/21	Student presentations
13	11/28	Student presentations

Class	Date	Topic
14	12/5	Student presentations

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC Building, Room 128, 631-632-6748. They will determine what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology and Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, and Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary web site at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>.

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology and Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, and Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Electronic Communication

Email to your University email account is an important way of communicating with you for this course. For most students, the email address is `firstname.lastname@stonybrook.edu`. *It is your responsibility to read your email received at this account.* For instructions about how to verify your University email address, see

<http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo>.

You can set up email forwarding using instructions described at

<http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail>.

If you choose to forward your University email to another account, we are not responsible for any undeliverable messages.

Religious Observances

See the policy statement regarding religious holidays at

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/forms/RelHolPol\%20081612\%20cr.pdf>.

Students are expected to notify the course professors by email of their intention to take time out for religious observance. This should be done as soon as possible but definitely before the end of the add/drop period. At that time, they can discuss with the instructors how they will be able to make up the work covered.