

**AST 101: Introduction to Astronomy**  
**Fall 2013**

**Instructor**

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ESS 456  
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**Teaching Assistant**

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**Course Description**

A general survey of astronomy for non-science majors. Topics include our Sun, other stars, our Galaxy, other galaxies, and the Universe.

**Class Meeting**

TuTh 8:30–9:50, Javits 103

**Text**

The required text for the course is *The Cosmic Perspective: (7th Ed.)* by J. Bennett et al. (Pearson). Note that the 6th edition (or even earlier) text is also suitable. *Also note that exams and quizzes will be based on the assigned reading.*

**Office Hours**

Lanzetta: M 4:30–5:30, Tu 10:00–11:00 and by appointment  
Clarke: MWF 10:00–11:00

**Homework**

Homework questions will be assigned weekly. This homework will not be collected or graded, but students are responsible for knowing how to answer or solve the homework questions, and these or similar questions may appear on the quizzes and exams.

**Assigned Reading**

Each lecture cover a chapter or a portion of a chapter of the text; this chapter is the assigned reading. Reading assignments are to be completed *before* the corresponding lecture. Exams and quizzes will be based largely the assigned reading.

**Quizzes**

There will be approximately 12 quizzes over the course of the semester, administered on either Tuesday or Thursday. The quizzes will be based on the assigned reading. *Note that the quizzes may be administered at the beginning or end of class of anytime in between. Also note that there will be no way to make up missed quizzes.* For each student, the lowest two quiz scores across

the semester will be dropped when determining the quiz average, so the quiz average will be based on the highest 10 (of 12) quiz scores.

### **Exams**

There will be two mid-term exams over the course of the semester and a (non-cumulative) final exam at the end of the semester. No electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) may be used during the exams, and no notes or books may be consulted during the exams. Students must arrive on time for the exams with their student ID cards. Students who arrive late for an exam will not be given extra time. *Note that there will be no way to make up missed exams*, although with advanced notice or careful documentation of extenuating circumstances, a missed exam may be excused or other accommodations made. The schedule of exams is presented in the “Course Schedule” below.

### **Final Exam**

According to the University registrar ([stonybrook.edu/registrar/](http://stonybrook.edu/registrar/)), the final exam is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 11:15 to 1:45 PM. In the event of a discrepancy between what is listed here and what is listed by the registrar, what is listed by the registrar will take precedence. *Note that students are required to take the final exam, and there will be no way to make up a missed final exam.*

### **Course Grade**

The course grade will be based on two mid-term exams (25% each), the final exam (30%), and the quizzes (20%).

### **Extra Credit**

There is no possibility of extra credit.

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	1/26	1	A Modern View of the Universe
2	1/28	2	Discovering the Universe for Yourself
3	2/2	3	The Science of Astronomy
4	2/4	3	The Science of Astronomy
5	2/9	S1	Celestial Timekeeping and Navigation
6	2/11	4	Making Sense of the Universe: Understanding Motion, Energy, and Gravity

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7	2/16	4	Making Sense of the Universe: Understanding Motion, Energy, and Gravity
8	2/18	5	Light and Matter: Reading Messages from the Cosmos
9	2/23	5	Light and Matter: Reading Messages from the Cosmos
10	2/25		Midterm 1: Chapters 1–5, S1
11	3/1	14	Our Star
12	3/3	14	Our Star
13	3/8	15	Surveying the Stars
14	3/10	15	Surveying the Stars
	3/15	No class	
	3/17	No class	
15	3/22	16	Star Birth
16	3/24	17	Star Stuff
17	3/29	18	The Bizarre Stellar Graveyard
18	3/31		Midterm 2: Chapters 14–18
19	4/5	19	Our Galaxy
20	4/7	19	Our Galaxy
21	4/12	20	Galaxies and the Foundation of Modern Cosmology
22	4/14	20	Galaxies and the Foundation of Modern Cosmology

Class	Date	Chapter	Topic
23	4/19	21	Galaxy Evolution
24	4/21	21	Galaxy Evolution
25	4/26	22	The Birth of the Universe
26	4/28	22	The Birth of the Universe
27	5/3	23	Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the Fate of the Universe
28	5/5	23	Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the Fate of the Universe

### **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.