

ASTR 110 INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

3 Credits, CRN 61181

Asynchronous Online Course – Check in Daily

INSTRUCTOR: Sean P. Moroney, Ph.D.
OFFICE HOURS: WCC CAMPUS - Imiloa 118 Tuesdays 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
ONLINE - BlackBoard Collaborate To Be Scheduled
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2017

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the astronomical universe for non-science majors.

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

No additional activities

ONLINE ACCESS

This course may be found at windwardcc.instructure.com.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Outline the development of astronomy from ancient times to present and explain the role of the scientific method in this historical context.
2. Describe and explain the apparent motions of the celestial bodies, especially as related to naked-eye observations.
3. Identify the appropriate instruments used by astronomers to understand the universe.
4. Outline the origins of our solar system and appraise the leading cosmological theories of the origin of the universe.
5. Describe the physical and chemical properties of the objects in our solar system and apply the concept of comparative planetology.
6. Describe the physical and chemical nature of stars, and especially our sun, and apply the astronomical techniques used to measure stellar properties.
7. Outline the evolutionary stages in a star's life and compare and contrast the structure of our Milky Way and other galaxies.
8. Apply astronomical concepts to the search for extraterrestrial life.

COURSE MODULES

The course is structurally divided into 4 Modules, each of which has a 4-week window within which various Course Tasks are to be carried out and completed. The Course Calendar below identifies those time segments.

Module 1: Here we cover the basics. These include the appearance of the universe from a moving platform (Earth) within the solar system and the basic principles of physics necessary to understand how the universe works. These principles include the laws of motion, gravitation, electromagnetic radiation, and atomic structure.

Module 2: The origin of the solar system is discussed. Then we conduct a survey of the planets, their moons, and the other bodies orbiting the sun. Finally, the discoveries of exoplanets are reviewed.

Module 3: We then consider the sun and its properties. The nature and the variety of stars is discussed. The H-R Diagram is introduced both as a tool for cataloging star types and as a way of displaying their evolutionary development. The end-stages of low- and high-mass stars (white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes) are discussed.

Module 4: The Milky Way Galaxy is explored. Then, the various types of galaxies at great distances are reviewed. The cosmology of the Big Bang, along with the current topics of dark matter and dark energy, are reviewed. We conclude with a discussion of life in the cosmos.

COURSE TASKS

The course tasks described here rely considerably upon active involvement and participation by all course members. Details on all these course tasks will be supplied separately.

- **Projects (30% of the Course Grade):**
 - In each Module, students will explore specific assigned topics and will prepare presentations to be posted into a Gallery within the Course Canvas site.
 - There will be three (3) Projects during the term. The Projects will have Due Dates that are, in general, independent of the Module Schedule. Instructions will be posted at announced times in the Course Canvas site.

- **MasteringAstronomy HomeWorks (15% of the Course Grade):**
 - These HomeWorks will be accessed from within the Course Canvas website, found at windwardcc.instructure.com. In the Left Menu of Canvas, click on "MyLab and Mastering".
 - The HomeWorks are aligned by Chapter in the text. Each Chapter has 2 Homeworks, labeled as HW ##A and HW ##B, where ## is the Chapter Number (01 to 19). A HW ##A consists of 15 randomly selected multiple choice questions from that Chapter; a HW ##B consists of a single randomly selected short answer question, also from that Chapter.
 - The Homeworks will be available for fixed intervals given in the MasteringAstronomy schedule below. The **best 16 of 19 HW-A** scores and the **best 16 of 19 HW-B** scores will be counted toward the final grade.

- **Video Review Quizzes (VRQs) (20% of the Course Grade):**

- Each Section of each Chapter has a narrated Video Lecture located in the Course Canvas site. These may be found located in separate Chapter Modules under Modules in the Left Menu. There is one Video Lecture for each Section of the Chapter.
 - Within each of the Chapter Modules, alongside the Video Lecture, is a Video Review Quiz (VRQ). The Video Lecture should be watched – at least once – before taking the VRQ. There are five (5) questions in each VRQ.
 - Each Chapter's VRQs has a specific date of availability and a specific Due Date. They continue to be available during a 3-day grace period, during which a 10%-per-day Lateness Deduction may be assessed; after the Grace Period, those VRQs become unavailable.
 - The VRQs are timed, with each attempt being allotted five (5) minutes. A VRQ may be taken three times, with the best of the three grades being the one which is recorded; the VRQ may not be paused once it has begun.
 - The schedule of the VRQs is given below.
- **Ask the Professor (AskP) (10% of the Course Grade):**
 - During the timeframe of each Module, in a forum set up for this purpose, each student will pose 2 separate questions on specific Module-related topics, which the Instructor will then explore in some detail. Thought-provoking questions on the current subjects are requested.
 - Follow-up questions from the same student and/or from different students are welcome.
 - The grade given for the question will depend on the quality of the question, with a trivial question getting a lower grade and a profound thought-provoking question getting a higher grade.
 - After a Module closes out, the questions asked, and their answers, will continue to be visible; no new questions may be posted after that time.
 - The schedule of the AskPs is given below.
- **Ask the Student (AskS) (10% of the Course Grade):**
 - During the timeframe of each Module, in a forum set up for this purpose, the instructor will pose 2 separate questions on specific Module-related topics. The students are expected to explore these topics in some detail and to post a considered and thoughtful response.
 - Any answers previously posted will not be visible to an answering student until that student submits his/her own answer.
 - Follow-up responses from the same student and/or from different students are welcome.
 - The grade given for the answers will depend on the quality of the answer, with a minimalist answer getting a lower grade and a well-thought-out answer getting a higher grade.
 - After a Module closes out, the questions asked, and their answers, will continue to be visible; no new answers may be accepted after that time.
 - The schedule of the AskPs is given below.
- **Module Tests (MTs) (15% of the Course Grade):**
 - Four (4) Tests, taken online through Canvas, will take place at approximately 4-week intervals, according to the Test Schedule listed below. Each Test will cover all of the Chapters in one of the Modules of the course.
 - Each Test will consist of 50 questions, randomly selected from a pool of multiple-choice and true/false questions.
 - The time allowed for each Test will be 120 minutes. Once the Test is opened, it may not be paused or cancelled.
 - Three (3) attempts at each Test will be permitted. The best score of the three will be the one recorded.
 - Of the four Tests, the lowest score will be discarded in the computation of the final grade.

GRADING OF COURSE TASKS

The course grade will be computed as follows:

	Number	Max. Score
Projects	3	30%
MA HomeWorks A	Best 16 of 19	10%

MA HomeWorks B	Best 16 of 19	5%
Video Review Quizzes	Best 7/8 of Sections	20%
Ask the Professor	Best 7 of 8 (2 per Module)	10%
Ask the Student	Best 7 of 8 (2 per Module)	10%
Module Tests	Best 3 of 4	15%
Total =		100%

(MA = MasteringAstronomy)

Course work submitted after specified Due Dates will be subject to a Lateness Deduction, which will generally be 10% per calendar day late after the Due Date. The Lateness Deduction may be excused for a valid documented reason.

GRADING SCALE

The final letter grade will be based on the total percentage that the student has earned from all the course tasks. Each letter grade and its respective level of achievement is provided in the following table:

Letter Grade	Definition
A	90% - 100% of cumulative points possible
B	80% - 89.9% of cumulative points possible
C	70% - 79.9% of cumulative points possible
D	60% - 69.9% of cumulative points possible
F	below 60% of cumulative points possible

Other grades may be assigned as listed in the WCC Catalog.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Textbook:

The Essential Cosmic Perspective Plus MasteringAstronomy with Pearson eText – Access Card Package, 8th ed. by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit. Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN = 9780134516332

Course Canvas site:

www.windwardcc.instructure.com: It is here that the course comes alive. Explore this site and ask questions about its features.

Website:

www.masteringastronomy.com: Pearson Education's Astronomy website, replete with animations, videos, and eText. This will also house the HomeWorks for the course, permitting their completion according to the student's own schedule. This is also accessible through the link, My Labs and Mastering, in the Left Menu of the Course Canvas site.

ATTENDANCE

Checking in regularly and interacting with the Instructor and the class is expected. It will be important to observe the Due Dates for the course. A steady progress forward will get us all successfully to the goal.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.

Revised May 25, 2011

CALENDARS OF DUE DATES

PROJECTS

Project	Due	Available	
	Date	From	To
1	1 October	28 August	4 October
2	29 October	25 September	1 November
3	3 December	30 October	6 December

ASK THE STUDENT/PROFESSOR (ASK-S/ASK-P)

AskS & AskP				
MODULE	ASK	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	21-Aug	3-Sep	6-Sep
	2	4-Sep	17-Sep	20-Sep
2	3	18-Sep	1-Oct	4-Oct
	4	2-Oct	15-Oct	18-Oct
3	5	16-Oct	29-Oct	1-Nov
	6	30-Oct	12-Nov	15-Nov
4	7	13-Nov	26-Nov	29-Nov
	8	27-Nov	8-Dec	10-Dec

VIDEO REVIEW QUIZZES (VRQs)
MASTERINGASTRONOMY HOMEWORKS (MA)

VRQs				
MODULE	Chapter	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	21-Aug	28-Aug	31-Aug
	2	26-Aug	2-Sep	5-Sep
	3	31-Aug	7-Sep	10-Sep
	4	5-Sep	12-Sep	15-Sep
	5	10-Sep	17-Sep	20-Sep
2	6	18-Sep	25-Sep	28-Sep
	7	23-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct
	8	28-Sep	5-Oct	8-Oct
	9	3-Oct	10-Oct	13-Oct
	10	8-Oct	15-Oct	18-Oct
3	11	16-Oct	25-Oct	28-Oct
	12	22-Oct	31-Oct	3-Nov
	13	28-Oct	6-Nov	9-Nov
	14	3-Nov	12-Nov	15-Nov
4	15	13-Nov	20-Nov	23-Nov
	16	18-Nov	25-Nov	28-Nov
	17	23-Nov	30-Nov	3-Dec
	18	28-Nov	5-Dec	8-Dec
	19	3-Dec	7-Dec	10-Dec

MODULE TESTS (MTs)

Module Test	Chapters	Due	Available	
		Date	From	To
1	1 – 5	24 September	11 September	24 September
2	6 – 10	22 October	9 October	22 October
3	11 – 14	19 November	6 November	19 November
5	15 - 19	15 December	4 December	15 December

COURSE CALENDAR

ASTR 110 OL – Fall 2017

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Module</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	21 – 27 Aug		Course Introduction
2	28 Aug – 3 Sep	1 – Basic Science	Chs. 1 - 5
3	4 – 10 Sep		
4	11 – 17 Sep		
5	18 – 24 Sep		
6	25 Sep – 1 Oct	2 – Solar System	Chs. 6 - 10
7	2 – 8 Oct	And Exoplanets	
8	9 – 15 Oct		
9	16 – 22 Oct		
10	23 – 29 Oct	3 - Stars	Chs. 11 - 14
11	30 Oct – 5 Nov		
12	6 – 12 Nov		
13	13 – 19 Nov		
14	20 – 26 Nov	4 – Galaxies, Life,	Chs. 15 - 19
15	27 Nov – 3 Dec	And Beyond	
16	4 – 10 Dec		
	15 Dec 2017	Fall Semester Ends	