

ASTR 110 INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

CRN = 64024

3 Credits

Asynchronous Online Course – Check in Daily

INSTRUCTOR:	Sean P. Moroney, Ph.D.	
OFFICE HOURS:	WCC CAMPUS - Imiloa 118	Fridays 9:00 – 11:00 AM
	ONLINE - BlackBoard Collaborate	Sunday 7:00 – 8:00 PM
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	Fall 2018	

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 one or more narrated Video Lectures located in the Course Canvas site. These may be found located in separate Chapter Modules under Modules in the Left Menu.
 - Within each of the Chapter Modules, alongside the Video Lectures, are Video Review Quizzes (VRQs). Each Video Lecture should be watched – at least once – before taking its 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 fifteen (15) minutes. A VRQ may be taken once; the VRQ may not be paused once it has begun.
 - The schedule of the VRQs is given below.
 - The **best (approximately) 7/8 of the VRQ** scores will be counted toward the final grade.
- **Ask the Professor (AskP) (10% of the Course Grade):**
 - During the timeframe of each of the four (4) Modules, 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.
 - If a question is too simple or has built-in conceptual errors, the student will be asked to resubmit a better question.
 - 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.
 - There will be eight (8) AskP assignments in total.
 - The schedule of the AskPs is given below.
 - The **best 7 of 8 AskP** scores will be counted toward the final grade.
- **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 responses.
 - 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.
 - There will be eight (8) AskS assignments in total.
 - The schedule of the AskSs is given below.
 - The **best 7 of 8 AskS** scores will be counted toward the final grade.
- **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.
 - The **best 3 of 4 MT** scores will be counted toward 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 (marked with *) 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.

Computed grades will not be rounded up.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Announcements section in Canvas is a critically important section for the transmission of information about the course. This should be checked frequently.

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.

CALENDARS OF DUE DATES

PROJECTS

Project	Due	Available	
	Date	From	To
1	30 September	27 August	3 October
2	4 November	1 October	7 November
3	9 December	5 November	12 December

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

AskS & AskP				
MODULE	ASK	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	20-Aug	2-Sep	5-Sep
	2	3-Sep	16-Sep	19-Sep
2	3	17-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct
	4	1-Oct	14-Oct	17-Oct
3	5	15-Oct	28-Oct	31-Oct
	6	29-Oct	11-Nov	14-Nov
4	7	12-Nov	25-Nov	28-Nov
	8	26-Nov	9-Dec	12-Dec

MASTERINGASTRONOMY HOMEWORKS (MA)

MODULE	CHAPTER	DUE	FROM	TO
1	1	30-Aug	20-Aug	2-Sep
	2	5-Sep	26-Aug	8-Sep
	3	11-Sep	1-Sep	14-Sep
	4	16-Sep	6-Sep	19-Sep
	5	22-Sep	12-Sep	25-Sep
2	6	27-Sep	17-Sep	30-Sep
	7	3-Oct	23-Sep	6-Oct
	8	9-Oct	29-Sep	12-Oct
	9	15-Oct	5-Oct	18-Oct
	10	20-Oct	10-Oct	23-Oct
3	11	25-Oct	15-Oct	28-Oct
	12	31-Oct	21-Oct	3-Nov
	13	6-Nov	27-Oct	9-Nov
	14	12-Nov	2-Nov	15-Nov
4	15	22-Nov	12-Nov	25-Nov
	16	27-Nov	17-Nov	230-Nov
	17	2-Dec	22-Nov	5-Dec
	18	7-Dec	27-Nov	10-Dec
	19	9-Dec	2-Dec	12-Dec

MODULE TESTS (MTs)

Module Test	Chapters	Due	Available	
		Date	From	To
1	1 – 5	23 September	10 September	26 September
2	6 – 10	21 October	8 October	24 October
3	11 – 14	18 November	5 November	21 November
4	15 - 19	14 December	2 December	14 December

VIDEO REVIEW QUIZZES (VRQs)

VRQs				
MODULE	Chapter	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	20-Aug	27-Aug	30-Aug
	2	25-Aug	1-Sep	4-Sep
	3	30-Aug	6-Sep	9-Sep
	4	4-Sep	11-Sep	14-Sep
	5	9-Sep	16-Sep	19-Sep
2	6	17-Sep	24-Sep	27-Sep
	7	22-Sep	29-Sep	2-Oct
	8	27-Sep	4-Oct	7-Oct
	9	2-Oct	9-Oct	12-Oct
	10	7-Oct	14-Oct	17-Oct
3	11	15-Oct	24-Oct	27-Oct
	12	21-Oct	30-Oct	2-Nov
	13	27-Oct	5-Nov	8-Nov
	14	2-Nov	11-Nov	14-Nov
4	15	12-Nov	19-Nov	22-Nov
	16	17-Nov	24-Nov	27-Nov
	17	22-Nov	29-Nov	2-Dec
	18	27-Nov	4-Dec	7-Dec
	19	2-Dec	9-Dec	12-Dec

COURSE CALENDAR

ASTR 110 OL – Fall 2018

<u>Module</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
1	1	20 – 26 Aug		Course Introduction
	2	27 Aug – 2 Sep	1 – Basic Science	Chs. 1 - 5
	3	3 – 9 Sep		
	4	10 – 16 Sep		
2	5	17 – 23 Sep		
	6	24 – 30 Sep	2 – Solar System	Chs. 6 - 10
	7	1 – 7 Oct	And Exoplanets	
	8	8 – 14 Oct		
3	9	15 – 21 Oct		
	10	22 – 28 Oct	3 - Stars	Chs. 11 - 14
	11	29 Oct – 4 Nov		
	12	5 – 11 Nov		
4	13	12 – 18 Nov		
	14	19 – 25 Nov	4 – Galaxies, Life,	Chs. 15 - 19
	15	26 Nov – 2 Dec	And Beyond	
	16	3 – 9 Dec		
		14 Dec 2018	Fall Semester Ends	