

ASTR 110 WI - INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

CRN = 62478

3 Credits

Asynchronous Online Course – Check in Daily

INSTRUCTOR: Sean P. Moroney, Ph.D.
OFFICE HOURS: WCC CAMPUS - Imiloa 118 Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 – 4:00 PM
ONLINE - BlackBoard Collaborate Sunday 7:00 – 8:00 PM
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 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.

WRITING INTENSIVE HALLMARKS

A WI course is a discipline-specific course in which writing plays a major integrated role. Students in course sections designated as a "WI" learn to understand course content through writing and to write in ways appropriate to that discipline.

English 100 is a prerequisite before students take the two required WI courses for the Associate in Arts degree. Students transferring to some bachelor's degree campuses in the UH system may bring two or three WI courses with them to count for the bachelor's degree. The hallmarks of a writing intensive course are:

- W1. The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials. Writing is considered to be a process in which multiple drafts are encouraged.
- W2. The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing. At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required in writing intensive courses.
- W3. Written assignments contribute significantly to each student's course grade.
- W4. The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.
- W5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

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.

- **Writing Assignments (40% of the Course Grade):**
 - In each Module, students will watch an assigned video on four different Astronomical subjects and will prepare Writing Assignments (called Video Projects (VPs)) on each of those subjects. The details of the preparation of the essays and of the finished VPs will be posted in the course website in Canvas.
 - There will be four (4) VPs during the term, one in each Module. The VPs will have Due Dates that will be matched to the Module Schedules. Instructions will be posted at announced times in the Course Canvas site.
 - In addition, there will be a fifth Writing Assignment, called the Astronomy Essay (AE), in which the student will use an assigned website as a take-off point to explore a topic of interest and collect information and supporting images on that topic. As with the VPs, details on preparation and formatting parameters will be posted in the Course Canvas site.
 - Individual conferences between faculty and students (to respond to drafts of the students' writing assignments) are required in WI courses at Windward CC; **these are mandatory**.
 - In each Module, each student is required to meet either individually or in small groups with the Instructor to provide Progress Updates. These meetings may occur Face-to-Face (on the WCC Campus) or online. They may not occur during Office Hours.
 - A minimum of four (4) such meetings should occur throughout the semester.
- **MasteringAstronomy HomeWorks (10% 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.
 - The schedule of the MA HWs is given below.
- **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 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.
 - 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.
- **Module Tests (MTs) (20% 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 150 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
Writing Assignments *	5	40%
MA HomeWorks A	Best 16 of 19	7%
MA HomeWorks B	Best 16 of 19	3%
Video Review Quizzes *	Best 7/8 of Sections	20%
Ask the Professor *	Best 7 of 8 (2 per Module)	10%
Module Tests *	Best 3 of 4	20%
	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.

Revised May 25, 2011

CALENDARS OF DUE DATES

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Due	Available	
	Date	From	To
VP1	4 February	8 January	7 February
VP2	4 March	5 February	7 March
VP3	8 April	5 March	11 April
VP4	4 May	9 April	7 May
AE	22 April	8 January	25 April

ASK THE PROFESSOR (AskP)

AskP				
MODULE	ASK	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	8-Jan	21-Jan	24-Jan
	2	22-Jan	4-Feb	7-Feb
2	3	5-Feb	18-Feb	21-Feb
	4	19-Feb	4-Mar	7-Mar
3	5	5-Mar	18-Mar	21-Mar
	6	19-Mar	8-Apr	11-Apr
4	7	9-Apr	22-Apr	25-Apr
	8	23-Apr	6-May	9-May

MASTERINGASTRONOMY HOMEWORKS (MA)

MA HWA & HWB			
MODULE	Chapter	OPEN	DUE
1	1	8-Jan	18-Jan
	2	13-Jan	23-Jan
	3	18-Jan	26-Jan
	4	23-Jan	2-Feb
	5	28-Jan	7-Feb
2	6	5-Feb	15-Feb
	7	10-Feb	20-Feb
	8	15-Feb	25-Feb
	9	20-Feb	2-Mar
	10	25-Feb	7-Mar
3	11	5-Mar	17-Mar
	12	11-Mar	23-Mar
	13	17-Mar	5-Apr
	14	23-Mar	10-Apr
4	15	9-Apr	19-Apr
	16	14-Apr	24-Apr
	17	19-Apr	29-Apr
	18	24-Apr	4-May
	19	29-Apr	9-May

MODULE TESTS (MTs)

Module Test	Chapters	Due	Available	
		Date	From	To
1	1 - 5	11 February	29 January	11 February
2	6 - 10	11 March	26 February	11 March
3	11 - 14	15 April	2 April	15 April
4	15 - 19	11 May	30 April	11 May

VIDEO REVIEW QUIZZES (VRQs)

VRQs				
MODULE	Chapter	OPEN	DUE	CLOSE
1	1	8-Jan	15-Jan	18-Jan
	2	13-Jan	20-Jan	23-Jan
	3	18-Jan	25-Jan	28-Jan
	4	23-Jan	30-Jan	2-Feb
	5	28-Jan	4-Feb	7-Feb
2	6	5-Feb	12-Feb	15-Feb
	7	10-Feb	17-Feb	20-Feb
	8	15-Feb	22-Feb	25-Feb
	9	20-Feb	27-Feb	2-Mar
	10	25-Feb	4-Mar	7-Mar
3	11	5-Mar	14-Mar	17-Mar
	12	11-Mar	20-Mar	23-Mar
	13	17-Mar	2-Apr	5-Apr
	14	23-Mar	8-Apr	11-Apr
4	15	9-Apr	16-Apr	19-Apr
	16	14-Apr	21-Apr	24-Apr
	17	19-Apr	26-Apr	29-Apr
	18	24-Apr	1-May	4-May
	19	29-Apr	6-May	9-May

COURSE CALENDAR
ASTR 110 OL – Spring 2018

Module	Week	Date	Focus	Chapters
1	1	8 – 14 Jan		Course Introduction
	2	15 – 21 Jan	1 – Basic Science	Chs. 1 - 5
	3	22 – 28 Jan		
	4	29 Jan – 4 Feb		
2	5	5 – 11 Feb		
	6	12 – 18 Feb	2 – Solar System	Chs. 6 - 10
	7	19 – 25 Feb	And Exoplanets	
	8	26 Feb – 4 Mar		
3	9	5 – 11 Mar		
	10	12 – 18 Mar	3 - Stars	Chs. 11 - 14
	11	19 – 25 Mar		
		26 - 30 Mar	* * * * * SPRING BREAK * * * * *	
	12	2 – 8 Apr		
4	13	9 – 15 Apr		
	14	16 – 22 Apr	4 – Galaxies, Life,	Chs. 15 - 19
	15	23 – 29 Apr	And Beyond	
	16	30 Apr – 4 May		
		11 May 2017	Spring Semester Ends	