UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
WINDWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASTR180

Planetary Astronomy

Semester Dates (01/12/2026-05/15/2026)

Contact Info

Instructor: Larry E. Harrison

Zoom: https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/99817130279

Passcode: 442744 (By appointment only)

Office: Ike'lea 138 (UHMC Campus)

Office Hours: MW Zoom only, by appointment, 10:00AM-12:00PM and 4:00PM-6:00PM

T/R in person: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Email: larryhar@hawaii.edu

Welcome

Welcome to Planetary Astronomy, where we'll be exploring the universe and the science of astronomy.

Class Meeting Days/Times and Location:

This class is entirely online. All communications will take place in the Lamaku Classroom and via Email correspondence.

Required Textbook, Materials, Resources, Supplies, Technology, Technical Skills

Required Textbook

- Openstax "Astronomy 2e" online textbook found at: Ch. 1 Introduction - Astronomy 2e | OpenStax

Required Materials, Resources, Supplies, and Technology

- Access to a computer (available in the lab).
- Reliable high-speed Internet connection.
- Firefox is the most compatible browser for Lamaku. Download Firefox for free.
- Adobe (Acrobat) Reader. Download Adobe Reader for free.
- Digital or cloud-based storage

Technical Skill Requirements

- Keyboard and basic computer skills.

Course Information

Academic Prerequisites

- ASTRO 110 with grade C or better (or concurrent enrollment)

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to delve into the cosmos and explore theories and concepts discussed in ASTR110. This is an undergraduate astronomy class and we will explore stellar creation, Einstein's theory of relativity, exoplanets, blackholes, and our own solar system.

Course Description

This is an online lecture course that concerns the nature of the astronomical universe for non-science majors. In this course, I introduce the history of, the discoveries in, and the methods used in astronomy, with descriptive treatments of planets, the solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmology. Additionally, I discuss the concepts of size, distance, and time in the observable universe.

Course Expectations

Three to six hours per week working on reading and homework assignments.

Student Behavior Expectations

Refer to the Windward Community College Student Conduct website:

Student Conduct | Windward Community College (hawaii.edu)

Class Participation and Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to show respect for one another and adhere to all Windward Community College conduct protocol.

NOTE: The use of ChatGPT or any other AI website or service is strictly prohibited and constitutes cheating. Do not use ChatGPT or any AI website or service to complete your assignments or tests. The use of ChatGPT/AI services may result in receiving an F for the class and/or expulsion from the class and school.

Professionalism

Netiquette

(Noun): the rules of etiquette that apply when communicating over computer networks, especially the Internet (Dictionary.com, 2014). Visit the following website to familiarize yourself with The Core Rules of Netiquette (Ross, 2011).

Establishing appropriate etiquette for interaction in your online class is vital to developing a positive learning environment.

Online discussions and peer feedback on written work are invaluable. However, we must observe appropriate behavior online, like in a classroom. Here are a few guidelines:

- Aloha - Online Netiquette
- 15 Rules of Netiquette for Online Discussion Boards by Online Education Blog of Touro College.

First Year Experience Courses

FY designated courses are First Year Experience or FYE classes, which means several seats have been reserved for first-year students. All FYE sections are designed to connect you to strategies that support student success through career exploration, building peer connections, connecting to campus resources, and supporting academic skills using the Kaʻao framework. View the website for more information about FYE at UHMC, or email fyemaui@hawaii.edu.

Course Communication

Information will be disseminated to the students via email, in-class announcements, and Lamaku.

Use of Lamaku

Lamaku will be used as a repository for useful information, guides, and links. Check the 'announcements' section in addition to the 'resources' folder for any required files. Also, you will find additional information under the "Content" tab, where you will find the "Lessons" tab in Lamaku. It is in the weekly

lessons that you will find reading assignments, additional videos to watch, and the link for the week's PowerPoint and recorded lectures.

Class AI Policy for Homework, discussions, quizzes, and Final Exam:

I want to know what you know, not what AI knows. Therefore, do not submit AI generated answers. When using sources, always paraphrase, never copy and paste, as that is plagiarism and academically may result in failing the class.

NOTE: The use of ChatGPT or any other AI website or service is strictly prohibited and constitutes cheating. Do not use ChatGPT or any AI website or service to complete your assignments or tests. The use of ChatGPT/AI services may result in receiving an F for the class and/or expulsion from the class and school.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

This is an introductory course, a survey course, and a general science course for non-science majors. In this course I aim to teach you:

1. To think critically, as a scientist, and expand your understanding of both the Universe and the methods employed in the science of astronomy.
2. Describe astronomical structures and phenomena in the Universe.
3. Explain how we know what we know about the Universe.
4. Think scientifically, thereby to critically analyze information on astronomy and incorporate your new knowledge of astronomy into your everyday life

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Course Content

Studying the universe is a daunting task. The scale of this endeavor is incomprehensibly massive, but course content will survey several of the major topics in astronomy. We will start with our solar system and the basics of astronomy, and move up and out in scale into the universe.

Course Format and Schedule

Course Format

1. Weekly lessons, with reading assignments and support videos to watch.

2. Weekly recorded lectures to view.
3. Bi-weekly homework assignments and various discussions found in your Lamaku classroom.
4. Three quizzes will be given throughout the semester, and a final exam will be given.

Schedule is subject to change.

To Be Successful in this Class

- Keep up with assignments and turn them in on time.
- Late assignments are NOT accepted except under unusual circumstances.
- Log into the Lamaku Classroom regularly
- Commit to working 3-6 hours per week for activities and assignments.

Add/Drop Withdrawal Dates

View the complete Spring 2026 semester calendar at: Academic Calendar | Windward Community College for Tuition Refund and Withdrawal Deadlines.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based as follows:

Letter grades for the course will be based on the percentage guidelines below. Grades will be posted in Lamaku and will not be discussed via email. If you would like to discuss grades, please make an appointment.

Assessment Categories and Weighting:

Grades will be based on the following:

Complete assignments (Homework and occasional discussion topics) =60%

Quizzes = 20%

Final Exam = 20%

Total = 100%

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments are not accepted.

Grading Policy

Percentage Guideline and Grading Scale

Final semester grades are based on the following point system:

- A – (90-100%)
- B – (80-89%) ● C – (70-79%)
- D – (60-69%)
- F – (0-59%)

Attendance Policy

Maximum three unexcused absences.

Student Service and Support Statements

Visit and thoroughly read the **Student Service Statements** webpage for important information, including

- Accommodations
- Assessment
- Basic Needs
- Personal Counseling
- Campus Security
- UH Alerts
- Financial Aid
- First-Year Experience Courses
- Lactation Room
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Safe Zone Program
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Right to Know/Consumer Information
- Title IX
- UH Email Communication

Visit and thoroughly read the **Student Support Statement** webpage for important information, including

- Academic Support Starting Points
- Technology for Online Learning
- Learning Services and Resources
- Places to Study on Campus
- Testing

Lamaku Support Services

Phone and Email Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.

UH ITS Help Desk– email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or toll-free at 1-800- 558-2669 from the neighbor islands).

Lamaku Assistance Form – Click the Request Assistance link at the bottom of any Lamaku page to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email. Alternatively, contact the UH ITS Help Desk.

UHMC Outreach Centers

If you live in Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, or Hana, access to higher education no longer means a move or a long commute. View the UHMC Outreach Centers webpage for more information.