

Course Syllabus
PHY 133 – Section 5
Introductory Astronomy
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2008

Location of Class: Room 105, Farrington
Class Meeting Times: T-Th, 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Instructor: Dr. Brian Oetiker
Room 316, Farrington
Phone: 294-1600
Email: phy_bgo@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Office hours for this class are scheduled from 2:00pm – 5:00pm Tuesday & Thursday. Since I may not be in my office outside scheduled office hours, you may wish to make an appointment by email.

Course Description: This is a survey course designed to cover most aspects of astronomy. The textbook used in this class is conceptual in nature. However, some basic principles involving mathematics must be included to gain a proper understanding of astronomy as a science. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Course Objectives: The following topics will be covered in this course:

- Our place in the universe
 - How science works – the scientific method, overview of math
 - The night sky and history of astronomy
 - Understanding motion, energy, & gravity
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- Matter and energy in the universe
 - Light and other types of electromagnetic radiation
 - Geometrical optics
 - Detecting radiation: telescopes and related instruments
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- Terrestrial planets: Earth, Mercury, Venus and Mars
 - Jovian planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus & Neptune
 - Satellites of the Jovian planets
 - Asteroids, comets & Pluto
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- Formation of the solar system
 - The Sun
 - Extrasolar planets
 - Search for extraterrestrial life.
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Required Textbook: “Cosmic Perspective The Solar System” 4th Ed. By Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, & Voit. ISBN 0-8053-9296-3.

Required Supplies: Scientific calculator.

Attendance: Because my lectures do not present this course in the same order as the textbook, attendance is

vital.

Homework & Quizzes: Each week, homework will be assigned from the textbook. Homework will not be collected or graded. Exam questions will be closely related to the homework assignments.

Exams & Grading: Four exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover a section outlined earlier in this syllabus. All exams will be multiple-choice, and the questions will be closely related to the homework assignments.

Grading:

Exam #1: (Thursday, Feb. 14th) 25%

Exam #2: (Thursday, Mar. 6th) 25%

Exam #3: (Thursday, Apr. 17th) 25%

Exam #4: (TBA) 25%

MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT A NOTE FROM A PHYSICIAN.

Your final grade will be determined based on the following distribution:

A: 90%-100%

B: 75% - 89%

C: 60% - 74%

D: 50% - 59%

F: 0% - 49%

You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. *Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.* Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.