

COURSE SYLLABUS

Phy133.01 – Introductory Astronomy

Credit Hours: 3

Fall, 2007

Classroom: Room 105, Farrington Bldg
10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Gan Liang
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Office Location: Room 204F, Farrington Building

Office Hours: MWF, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Other times are available by appointment only.

These office hours are subject to change during the semester for any university-related functions or instructor illness. Notification will be made by posting an announcement on the "Blackboard" for this course.

Course Description: Introductory Astronomy: In this course, the development of astronomy, the solar system, star, galaxies, and cosmology are studied with basic principles of physics. Emphasis is placed on the study of the solar system. An overview of modern understanding of the cosmos is presented. No scientific or mathematical background is assumed, beyond the entrance requirements to the University. Astronomy is a science, however, so you will be expected to develop your critical thinking skills in order to understand and apply the scientific method. In terms of mathematics, we will use only arithmetic and a bit of simple algebra. Please feel free to make comments, criticisms, or suggestions at any time. The instructor will make any adjustments that are necessary to ensure that you find the course both challenging and rewarding. The course consists of the following parts: five quizzes, class participation, exam one, exam two, and final exam. The quizzes and exams will be in the form of multiple choice questions. Content of the course: Chapter 1-2, Chapter 4-9, Chapter 14-15.

Required Textbook: *The Cosmic Perspective, Fourth Edition*, 4th ed., by J. Bennett, M. Donahue, N. Schneider, and M. Voit. (Pearson/Addison Wesley ,

San Francisco, 2007).

Required Supplies: The following supplies are required for this course:

- (1) Pen,
- (2) #2 pencils
- (3) Notebook or ring binder
- (4) 8.5×11 paper
- (5) Eraser
- (6) Scientific calculator with the following functions: sine, cosine, square root, exponentiation, scientific notation
- (7) Textbook
- (8) Scantron Form No. 882-E

Assignments: For some chapters of the textbook, homework will be assigned. The homework assignments are optional and will not be collected and graded. You are encouraged to work, on your own initiative, as many questions and problems as possible for all the assigned homework.

Quizzes: There will be 5 in-class quizzes, each quiz will have about 10 quiz questions. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Exams: Exam One, Chapters 1-2, 4.
Exam Two, Chapters 5-7.
Final exam, Chapters 8-9, 14-15.

Exam content, schedule, and number of exams are subject to change.

Make-up exams will not be given without a good reason, such as a valid medical excuse signed by a licensed physician. Student is responsible for knowing the final exam schedule.

Unless advised differently by instructor all exams will be closed book and closed notes. Each exam will be in the form of multiple choice questions.

Review Questions: Review questions for Quizzes and Exams will be placed on the Blackboard.

Attendance: Attendance at lectures is required. Excessive (more than four times) absences may result in a serious lowering of the final grade. The instructor will check the class attendance no less than eight times during the semester. Attendance will be used to calculate your final grade of this course (see below). If there is a good reason for each absence, this must be submitted in writing to the instructor.

Attendance at exams and quizzes is mandatory.

Grading Plan:

90 up A
80 - <90 B
70 - <80 C
60 - <70 D
<60 F

Attendance 10%

Quizzes 20%

Exam One20%

Exam Two20%

Final exam:.....30%

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuses a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase

of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

Students are expected to maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dear of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

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.

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center . They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can

be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center . For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Dropping Course: The instructor will not automatically drop a student. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the final drop date and to drop if he or she deems it is necessary. Should you encounter any course difficulties during the term and need help, do not hesitate to ask and do not wait too late.

Grievances: Students should express grievances outside of class to your instructor first then to others in the following order, Department Head, and Dean.

Textbook topics to be Covered:

- CHAPTER 1 Our Place in the Universe
- CHAPTER 2 Discovering the Universe for Yourself
- CHAPTER 4 Making Sense of the Universe: Understanding Motion, Energy, and Gravity
- CHAPTER 5 Light and Matter: Reading Messages from the Cosmos
- CHAPTER 6 Telescope: Portals of Discovery
- CHAPTER 7 Our Planetary System
- CHAPTER 8 Formation of Solar System
- CHAPTER 9 Planetary Geology: Earth and Other Terrestrial Worlds
- CHAPTER 14 Our Star
- CHAPTER 15 Surveying the Stars

For some chapters, only selected sections will be covered.