ASTR 1010 – 8:50 AM – 10:05 AM MW Spring 2018

Text: OpenStax Astronomy
(free at https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy)

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Office Hours: 11:00 AM-Noon MW,1:00-2:30PM Tu,10:30 AM-Noon F & by appt.

Schedule

Our schedule for the semester is to finish the first fourteen chapters of the book by covering (on average) one per week. This is a significant amount of material, and you should spend time each week working problems, reading the book and the online notes, and reviewing your own notes.

Homework & Quizzes

Homework will be assigned and solved in class, but it will not be collected and graded. If you don't do the homework, don't expect to do particularly well on the tests. It is vital that you complete it, but as this is a college course, it is up to you to make the decision to do it or not. At least some quizzes will be based on homework material (though not necessarily verbatim problems).

Attendance

When you arrive, please turn off your cell phones, computers and all other electronics, and put newspapers, etc. away. I do not want to see your phone during class – no texting, calling, etc. You should bring an ordinary scientific calculator (about $10 most places) to class and especially to the tests. I will clear the memory of any programmable calculators before each test. Sometime before the first test, make sure you have brought your calculator to me so I'll know how to do that and you'll be able to use it during your test.

Honor Code

The AASU Honor Code (found in the student handbook) will be strictly upheld. Any violations or attempted violations will receive the harshest punishment allowed, including but not limited to a grade of F for the course. Plagiarism, which is defined as using someone else’s words or ideas (i.e., paraphrasing) without proper attribution, is an honor code violation. DO NOT try this.

Tests and Grading

As of this writing, there will be three tests, the lowest of which will be dropped (others worth 25% each), a final exam worth 35%, and some number of quizzes worth 15%. The tests will be approximately evenly spaced throughout the semester. If you must miss a test, you must contact me as soon as possible to schedule a makeup exam. While you aren’t required to attend class, your excuse must cover the time from the original exam date until you return to class ready to take the makeup. Keep in mind that the make-up test will almost certainly be harder than the original test; I tend to put the most straightforward questions possible on the main test, and the ones on make-up tests are therefore usually more complicated.

General Information

Feel free to stop by my office whenever you have a question or just want to talk. It’s especially easy to reach me by e-mail. E-mail is also the quickest way to arrange a meeting for whatever else you may need. This syllabus is subject to modifications (which will be announced in class) during the semester.