

Elementary Astronomy

Nota Bene: You *must* visit the course webpage

<http://go.owu.edu/~tbkrause/teaching/astr110.html>

in order to find more specific information regarding the course.

NB: All **email contact** will come through your *owu.edu* address. Make sure you continually check that account, and make sure your inbox is functioning properly.

1 Prerequisites

This class only requires you to bring

- *a desire to understand the universe as it swirls about you;*
- **the willingness to surprise yourself.**

No prior knowledge of astronomy or physics is required. You will need to know

- basic high-school algebra,

or at least remember that you once knew it, so that a quick review of certain concepts will go easier on the palate.

2 Course Outline

The following table lists the homework assignments for the semester. **The homework is due the following Sunday night.** For example, the homework listed for Week 1 (Jan. 12–16) is due Sunday, Jan. 18.

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapters	Assignment
1	Jan. 12–16	Astronomy as a Science	1, 2	Intro to MA
2	Jan. 19–23	Ancient Astronomy	3	A2
3	Jan. 26–30	Maya Astronomy	3	A3
4	Feb. 2–6	Maya Astronomy	3	...
5	Feb. 9–13	Celestial Coordinates	S1	AS1
6	Feb. 16–20	Celestial Mechanics	4	A4
7	Feb. 23–27	Light & Matter	5	A5
8	Mar. 2–6	Solar System Formation	8	A8
9	Mar. 9–13	Break
10	Mar. 16–20	Planetary Geology	9	A9, PS
11	Mar. 23–27	Planetary Atmospheres	10	A10
12	Mar. 20–Apr. 3	Jovian Systems	11	A11
13	Apr. 6–10	Jovian Systems	11	...
14	Apr. 13–17	Asteroids, etc.	12	A12
15	Apr. 20–24	Extra-Solar Planets	13	A13
16	Apr. 27–30	Extra-Solar Planets	13	...

See the course web page for further details.

3 Exams & Final Project

The midterm exams will be given during the regular 50 minute lecture period. There will be a *cumulative* final exam at the end of the semester.

Midterm Exam 1	Friday February 6, 2009 at 9:00–9:50 AM
Midterm Exam 2	Friday March 6, 2009 at 9:00–9:50 AM
Midterm Exam 3	Monday April 27, 2009 at 9:00–9:50 AM

The final project is an *open-ended* project of *your own* design, with the intent that you **do research that makes astronomy relevant to you**. That is, do any project that relates astronomy to your own interests. See the course web page for further details.

4 Observing Sessions

I will hold regular observing sessions at both the Student Observatory and Perkins Observatory. **You must attend at least two observing sessions** over the course of the semester. Failure to do so will result in one half letter grade deducted from your final class grade. See the course web page for further details.

5 Extra Credit

See the course web page for further details.

6 Course Policy & Grading

The factors contributing to your grade break down as follows.

Work	Fraction of Grade
Homework	.15
Quizzes	.15
Exams	.45
Final Project	.25

See the course web page for further details.

I will assign letter grades for the final cumulative score according to the following system.

Cumulative Score	Letter Grade
.80–1.00	A
.69–.79	B
.52–.68	C
.42–.51	D
0–.41	F

7 Textbook

The textbook for the class is *The Cosmic Perspective*, by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider & Voit, 5th edition.