Instructor Information

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Class Description

Physics 1304, Astronomy of the Solar System, is a three credit hour introductory study of the current knowledge and techniques of planetary astronomy. Broad topics in the field will be covered, but the emphasis will be on the birth of modern planetary astronomy and planetary geology.

Learning Objectives

After completing the Astronomy of the Solar System course, you should be able to comprehend, apply, and analyze the most important scientific models governing modern solar system astronomy and planetary geology and be familiar with the properties of the planets and smaller members of the solar system studied by planetary astronomers. Also, you should be able to comprehend, apply, and analyze the practices and methodologies used by modern astronomers in constructing planetary models.

Textbook

Primary Textbook:

Title: 21st Century Astronomy 5th Edition  
Publisher: W.W. Norton and Company

Secondary Textbook:

Title: Physical Geology  
Publisher: Steven Earle used under a CC-BY 4.0 international license  
Download: Free download at https://opentextbc.ca/geology/
Late Work Policy

- Unexcused late work or missed tests will not be accepted.
- If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline you will receive a zero for that assignment.
- You must contact your professor before the assignment is due if you believe it will be late or as soon as possible after the due date in the case of an unexpected emergency.
- Blackboard issues will arise, if you wait until the last minute to complete assignments you run the risk of missing them. I can fix problems such as browser crashes and internet outages, but NOT the hour before it is due. You have an entire week to complete work, so due dates are firm.

Class Work and Assessments

Quizzes 10 questions per chapter will be given as a short quiz. You will have two attempts at the quiz, but questions are randomized so you will likely not get the same questions both times. The higher of the two scores is taken as the grade. Quizzes for chapters assigned each week are all due on Friday (except for the last week, which is due Tuesday).

Activities There will be four Conceptual Activities from the textbook, each worth 20 points and due on Saturday of each of the first four weeks.

Unit Tests There will be four Unit tests worth 40 points each, due on Sunday of each of the first four weeks.

Final Exam There will be a Final Exam worth 100 points due on July 3.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined by your scores on all tests and exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>32 %</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Activities</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16 %</td>
<td>Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Tests</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>32 %</td>
<td>Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>July 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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TOTAL 500 100 %

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59% and below
Course Schedule

NOTE:

- EOD (end of the day) means 11:59 PM
- AS = 21st Century Astronomy Book
- PG = Physical Geology Book

Week 1 (June 4 - 8)

| AS Chapter 1 | Why Learn Astronomy?                      |
| AS Chapter 2 | Patterns in the Sky  Motions of Earth and the Moon |
| AS Chapter 3 | Motion of Astronomical Bodies               |
| AS Chapter 4 | Gravity and Orbits                           |

Due Dates:
- Chapter Quizzes: EOD June 8
- Logical Fallacies Test: EOD June 9
- Unit Test #1: EOD June 10

Week 2 (June 11 - 15)

| PG Chapter 1 | Introduction to Geology               |
| PG Chapter 3 | Intrusive Igneous Rocks               |
| PG Chapter 4 | Volcanism                              |
| PG Chapter 5 | Weathering and Soil                   |
| PG Chapter 6 | Measuring Geological Time             |
| PG Chapter 7 | Earth’s Interior                      |
| PG Chapter 8 | Plate Tectonics                       |

Due Dates:
- Chapter Quizzes: EOD June 15
- Phases of the Moon Test: EOD June 16
- Unit Test #2: EOD June 17

Week 3 (June 18 - 22)

| AS Chapter 7 | The Birth and Evolution of Planetary Systems |
| AS Chapter 8 | The Terrestrial Planets and Earth’s Moon   |
| AS Chapter 9 | Atmospheres of the Terrestrial Planets     |

Due Dates:
- Chapter Quizzes: EOD June 22
- Exploring Extrasolar Planets Test: EOD June 23
- Unit Test #3: EOD June 24
Week 4 (June 25 - 29)

| AS Chapter 10 | Worlds of Gas and Liquid - The Giant Planets |
| AS Chapter 11 | Planetary Moons and Rings |
| AS Chapter 12 | Dwarf Planets and Small Solar System Bodies |

**Due Dates:**
- Chapter Quizzes: EOD June 29
- Measuring Features on Io Test: EOD June 30
- Unit Test #4: EOD July 1

Week 5 (July 2 - 3)

| AS Chapter 24 | Life |

**Due Dates:**
- Chapter 24 Quiz: EOD July 3
- Final Exam: EOD July 3

**Academic Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

**American Disability Act**

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request and to implement academic accommodations.

**Religious Holy Day**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.