CONTENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION .......... 1
REQUIRED MATERIALS ....... 2
OPTIONAL MATERIALS ...... 2
COURSE OVERVIEW .......... 2
COURSE COMPONENTS ....... 2
STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS .... 4
GRADING POLICIES ........... 4
CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE ....... 5
INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT .............. 6
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ........ 8
COURSE CALENDAR .......... 9

CONTACT INFORMATION
Dr. Michael C. Holcomb
Office: VIN 123
Phone: 325.486.6787
Email: michael.holcomb@angelo.edu
Webpage: www.mcholcomb.com/teaching

Office Hours
Monday  10:00am–12:00pm
Tuesday  12:30pm–2:30pm
Wednesday 10:00am–1:00pm
Friday  10:00am–1:00pm
Also available by appointment
REQUIRED MATERIALS

- TopHat.com access - Get a discounted rate on TopHat through ASU website.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- Starry Night College planetarium software, student version

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will provide an introduction to the current knowledge and techniques of planetary astronomy. A broad range of topics will be covered; however, the emphasis will be on the birth of modern planetary astronomy and planetary geology.

This course is intended to acquaint students with the scientific method and basic tenets of scientific inquiry, to help students develop a better understanding of science in general and develop reasoning skills and strategies to prepare them for other upper-division course work. To this end, the course will emphasize a mix of conceptual understanding and standard end-of chapter homework solving skills.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes for the course, listed below, will be assessed through performance on guided classroom discussions, homework, and embedded questions within exams.

- Be able to apply scientific reasoning and critical thinking to the solution of problems.
- Gain an understanding of fundamental principles, generalizations, and formulae.
- Develop and demonstrate technical knowledge of major topics outlined in the course overview.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Lecture & Attendance

We will use TopHat this semester during lecture to take attendance, administer quizzes, and complete in-class assignments. TopHat access can be purchased through the ASU website, which offers a discounted price.

Once access has been purchased, you must register yourself at www.TopHat.com. Use both your legal name and your ASU Campus ID number (ex: 87654321) when setting up your account. The course code is 868019.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. Attendance will directly contribute to
your grade in the course. A spirit of honesty will be maintained in the attendance policy. Note that you are responsible for everything that we do in lecture, so it is to your advantage to attend. Please thoroughly read the section of this syllabus regarding classroom etiquette for further information on expectations for lecture attendance.

**Lecture Preparation**

You are expected to bring the assigned texts, paper for notes, and a suitable writing utensil (preferably a pencil with an eraser), a scientific calculator, and your ASU Student ID with you to every class meeting. You will likely find it helpful to read ahead in the textbook before each class.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned and graded roughly weekly. Late homework will only be accepted in the case of extenuating circumstances at the lecturer’s discretion. Even though the homework is weighted lightly in your final grade, it is not in any way optional; it is crucial for your understanding of the course material.

**Quizzes and In-Class Assignments (QICA)**

Several times throughout the term you will be asked to complete quizzes and in-class assignments. These can be either individual or team-based exercises and may or may not be announced. No makeup quizzes or in-class assignments will be given.

**Exams**

Three (3) in-class exams will be administered as scheduled. No makeup exams will be given, so please plan accordingly. All exams will be given in our normal classroom. Please see the course calendar on the last page of this syllabus for scheduled exam dates and anticipated content.

**Exam Rules**

Calculators only are permitted. All other electronics must be stowed out of sight during exams. Cell phones and smart watches are not considered to be calculators regardless of
what apps may have been installed. If you are seen attempting to use an electronic device during the exam, you will be asked to leave and issued a zero for the exam without exception.

**GRADING POLICIES**

The following scores will be recorded during the course of the semester: Attendance, Homework, QICA, Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, Final Exam. The course grade will be the weighted average of Attendance at 10%, Homework at 10%, QICA at 20% and Exams at 15% each.

**How your final course grade is weighted:**

[Diagram showing weight distribution]

There are no makeup exams; however, the final exam score can replace the lowest midterm. In other words, the four highest scores from Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, Final Exam, and Final Exam will be considered for the course grade.

Your letter grade will be determined on the following scale: F (≤59), D (60-69), C (70-79), B (80-89), A (90-100). The lecturer reserves the right to modify this scale by moving boundaries down; however, they will never be moved up.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See [ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information](#).

**STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

Be prepared! These tips will help you keep up, make for more productive classroom interaction, and help you be prepared for homework, labs, and exams that make up your semester grade.

- Pay special attention to examples worked in class.
- Study your notes.
- Read the material in the text before we cover it in class.
- Begin all homework assignments as soon as possible. Don’t get behind or wait until just before an exam to begin.
- Make use of the free in-person and online tutoring services available through the Tutoring Center.
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions for some classes are offered through the campus Tutoring Center. These sessions can help you review difficult concepts as a group.
- If you are stuck, come by my office with questions during office hours or make an appointment to meet at another time.
- Once you can work through a problem with your notes, book, study group, etc., be sure you can rework it entirely on your own.
- Don’t “blow off” any exam just because there is a dropped score. The purpose of the dropped score is in case of illness or other extenuating circumstances.
**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Attending lecture is mandatory. You are considered both advised and responsible for anything discussed during lecture. **No food or drink will be allowed due to lecture being held in the ASU Planetarium.**

Leaving lecture early or arriving late is considered both rude and distracting and is a safety hazard because of the room’s low light level. As such, doors will be locked once class begins and entry to the planetarium will not be granted once the doors are locked. If you have an expected reason to depart early, please inform the lecturer at the beginning of class, sit in a convenient location for leaving without disturbing the class, and do not attempt to leave unless the planetarium lights have been brought up to a safe level.

All students are expected to be respectful of their peers during lecture by not becoming a distraction. If you become a distraction to other students, then you will be dismissed from class for that day. Some actions, including but not limited to the following, will result in you being considered a distraction to your peers: repeatedly arriving late, reading unrelated material, using your cell phone in any way outside of approved exercises, visiting with your neighbor, sleeping, eating, “vaping,” and the use of any and all tobacco products.

No laptops or any other electronic devices are allowed in class unless the need for such a device for reason of a disability is documented by Student Disability Services.
INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT  (Adapted from Yale Center for Teaching and Learning)

Civility and Respect
Our university supports and wants to foster a civil, respectful, and open-minded climate so that all of us can live and work in an environment free of harassment, bias-motivated behaviors, unfair treatment, and fear. The university expects all members of our community to refrain from actions or behaviors that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups or that undermine their security or self-esteem based on traits related to race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, or physical or mental ability, including learning and/or developmental disabilities and past/present history of mental disorder or other category protected by state or federal law.

Student Disability Services
Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ada.

Point of Contact
Director of Student Disability Services
Dallas A. Swafford
Email: dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Office
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112
Office Email: ada@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325.942.2047
Title IX
All community members should enjoy an environment free of any form of harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or intimate partner violence. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty/staff member, they must notify our college’s Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. You may choose to request confidentiality from the University.

If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please report this to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance and Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D at 325.942.2022 or michelle.boone@asu.edu. You may also submit reports online at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

As a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325.942.2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325.486.6345), or the University Health Clinic (325.942.2171). For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Point of Contact
Director of Title IX Compliance and Title IX Coordinator
Michelle Boone, J.D.
Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu
Office
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Office Phone: 325.942.2022
Report an incident: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Religious Holy Days
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is a core institutional value at Angelo State University. It means, among other things, truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas we have used, and acknowledging our collaborations with others. In view of our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, the ASU Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity policy specifically prohibits the following forms of behavior:

- cheating on examinations, problem sets and all other forms of assessment;
- falsification and/or fabrication of data;
- plagiarism, that is, the failure in a dissertation, essay or other written exercise to acknowledge ideas, research, or language taken from others;
- multiple submissions of the same work without obtaining explicit written permission from both instructors before the material is submitted.

This is not an exhaustive list of prohibited behaviors. I encourage each of you to read the Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity policy in full for more information.

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to one or more of the following penalties: written reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and representing it as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas, giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you better understand plagiarism and academic honesty are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.
#### Our tentative course calendar is below. I reserve the right to change this calendar as needed; however, I will inform you in class and via email in advance of any changes.

Remember to check our Blackboard class page regularly for assigned readings and homework. Also remember to check your university email (RamMail) account regularly for class updates and other important university correspondence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Aug. 26 | **Tuesday, Aug. 27:** First class meeting  
**Thursday, Aug. 29:** Last day to make schedule changes for Fall 2019 | Science and the Universe | 1 |
| Sept. 02 | **Monday, Sept. 2:** Labor Day - No class, university holiday | The Birth of Astronomy | 2 |
| Sept. 09 | **Thursday, Sept. 12:** Drops and withdrawals will now be recorded on transcripts | Orbits and Gravity | 3 |
| Sept. 16 |  | Earth, Moon, and Sky | 4 |
| Sept. 23 | **Thursday, Sept. 26:** EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-4) | Radiation and Spectra / Astronomical Instruments | 5, 6 |
| Sept. 30 |  | Introduction to the Solar System | 7 |
| Oct. 07 |  | Earth as a Planet | 8 |
| Oct. 14 |  | Other Planets and Moons | 9 |
| Oct. 21 | **Thursday, Oct. 24:** EXAM 2 (Ch. 5-8) |  | 10 |
| Oct. 28 | **Thursday, Oct. 31:** Last day to drop or withdraw |  | 11 |
| Nov. 04 |  |  | 12 |
| Nov. 11 |  | Comets, Asteroids, and Space Debris | 13 |
| Nov. 18 | **Thursday, Nov. 21:** EXAM 3 (Ch. 9-12) |  | 14 |
| Nov. 25 | **Wednesday, Nov. 27:** Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 27-29) |  |  |
| Dec. 02 | **Monday, Dec. 2:** Lab finals begin (through Dec. 6)  
**Thursday, Dec. 5:** Last class meeting | The Sun / Life in the Universe | 15, 30 |
| Dec. 09 | **Thursday, Dec. 12:** FINAL EXAM, 8:00am–10:00am in ASU Planetarium (VIN P-02) |  |  |