Physics 1303: Fundamentals of Astronomy
Fall 2019

Course Information

Instructor
Dr. Kenneth Carrell
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Email: kenneth.carrell@angelo.edu
Office Hours: M 1-2PM, R 1-3pm, M-F 11am-noon (if no groups)

Course Description
Physics 1303, Fundamentals of Astronomy, is a three credit hour introductory study of the current knowledge and techniques of astronomy and astrophysics. Broad topics in the field will be covered, but the emphasis will be on stellar astronomy and cosmology.

Required Materials
Astronomy by Fraknoi, Morrison, & Wolff
Print:
Digital:
iBooks:
ISBN-10: 0-9986257-3-6

This book is available freely from OpenStax by going to this webpage:
https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy
You may purchase a hard copy, but you do not have to, you can download the entire book for free from the above webpage.

Academic Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disabilities
The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Religious Holidays
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 fails to do class work 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.
Assessing Outcomes & Grade Determination

Method of Assessing Outcomes
Student learning outcomes will be assessed with:

- Worksheets/Quizzes (20%) for chapters are assigned each week. Worksheets will be available on Blackboard and due on Fridays (except the week of Thanksgiving, which will be Wednesday).
- Conceptual Activities (20%) will be given and due on the dates below in the Course Outline.
- Four midterm exams (40%) completed on Blackboard and due as given below.
- A comprehensive Final Exam (20%) on December 11.

NOTE: Blackboard assignments are due “at the end of the day” which means 11:59PM. However, tests are timed and WILL NOT be available all the way until the end of the day (e.g. tests with 1-hour time limits will not be available starting at 11:00PM). 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 multiple days to complete work, so due dates are firm.

Late Work
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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worksheets/Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
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<td>Conceptual Activities</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>See Below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>See Below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>December 11</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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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 Outline

UNIT #1: Background Science
WEEK 1 (August 26 – 30)
Read Chapter 1, Science and the Universe: A Brief Tour
WEEK 2 (September 3 – 6)
Read Chapter 2, Observing the Sky: The Birth of Astronomy
Astronomy vs Astrology Activity – September 6
WEEK 3 (September 9 – 13)
Read Chapter 3, Orbits and Gravity
WEEK 4 (September 16 – 20)
Read Chapter 5, Radiation and Spectra
Read Chapter 6, Astronomical Instruments
Midterm Exam #1 is due by the end of the day September 20

UNIT #2: Stellar Properties
WEEK 5 (September 23 – 27)
Read Chapter 17, Analyzing Starlight
Read Chapter 18, The Stars: A Celestial Census
WEEK 6 (September 30 – October 4)
Read Chapter 18, The Stars: A Celestial Census
Read Chapter 19, Celestial Distances
H-R Diagram Activity – October 4
WEEK 7 (October 7 – 11)
Read Chapter 15, The Sun: A Garden Variety Star
Read Chapter 16, The Sun: A Nuclear Powerhouse
Midterm Exam #2 is due by the end of the day October 11

UNIT #3: Life Cycle of Stars
WEEK 8 (October 14 – 18)
Read Chapter 20, Between the Stars: Gas and Dust in Space
Read Chapter 21, The Birth of Stars
WEEK 9 (October 21 – 25)
Read Chapter 22, Stars from Adolescence to Old Age
Low-Mass Stellar Evolution Activity – October 25
WEEK 10 (October 28 – November 1)
Read Chapter 23, The Death of Stars
Read Chapter 24, Black Holes and Curved Spacetime
Midterm Exam #3 is due by the end of the day November 1

UNIT #4: Galaxies
WEEK 11 (November 4 – 8)
Read Chapter 25, The Milky Way Galaxy
Galaxy Classification Activity – November 8
WEEK 12 (November 11 – 15)
Read Chapter 26, Galaxies
WEEK 13 (November 18 – 22)
Read Chapter 27, Active Galaxies, Quasars, and Supermassive Black Holes
WEEK 14 (November 25 – 27)
Read Chapter 28, The Evolution and Distribution of Galaxies
Midterm Exam #4 is due by the end of the day November 27
WEEK 15 (December 2 – 6)
Read Chapter 29, The Big Bang
Read Chapter 30, Life in the Universe

FINAL EXAM is Wednesday December 11