Physics 1103: Stellar Astronomy Laboratory

Spring 2020

Course Information

**Meeting Place & Time:** ASU Planetarium (VIN P-02), Wednesday 03:00-04:50 PM

**Instructor**
Dr. Kenneth Carrell
**Office:** VIN 119, **Phone:** (325) 942-2136, **Email:** kenneth.carrell@angelo.edu

**Office Hours:** WR 1-3 PM, M-F 11am-noon (if no groups)

**Course Description**
Physics 1103, Stellar Astronomy Laboratory, is a one 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**

*The Norton Starry Night Workbook* by Desch & Marks

This workbook comes with a download code for the *Starry Night College* software. Both the software and workbook are required for this course. *Starry Night College* is a realistic and user-friendly planetarium simulation program that is designed to allow you to perform observational activities on your computer.

**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.
**Planetarium Class Etiquette**

- No food, drinks, or tobacco products are allowed in the planetarium or the outer lobby area.
- Please do not leave trash in the planetarium or lobby.
- Please do not disturb fellow students during class time.
- Please do not put your feet up on the chair in front of you.
- Silence cell phones and other electronic devices.
- No texting/messaging during class.
- Please let me know if you will be using any electronic device during class.

**Assessing Outcomes & Grade Determination**

**Method of Assessing Outcomes**

- Student learning outcomes will be assessed through tests administered on Blackboard for each of the completed labs.
- Make sure you complete each lab before you attempt to take the test.
- You will not have enough time to do the lab and take the test at the same time. All tests are timed with a limit of 30 minutes and once started, the test must be completed in one sitting.
- DO NOT leave the test before clicking **Save and Submit**.

**Grade Determination**

Your final grade will be determined by your scores on all lab tests. There are 14 tests worth 25 points each giving a total of 350 possible points. An extra credit lab will also be available to help raise your grade.

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.

**Final course grades will also be determined in part based on attendance as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Absences</th>
<th>Highest Grade Possible</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2 (&gt;85% attendance)</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (79% attendance)</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (71% attendance)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 (55-65% attendance)</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7+ (&lt;=50% attendance)</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Class Attendance**

- THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ‘EXCUSED’ AND ‘UNEXCUSED’ ABSENCES – you can miss 2 (two) class meetings for ‘free’.
- Class attendance is both an ASU and course requirement.
- You are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings.
- You are responsible for all course material and information that is presented in class.
- Attendance will be taken for each class meeting.
- Students will initial the sign-in sheet for each class attended.
- If you miss class, get the class notes and information from a fellow student.
- Attendance (or lack thereof) often makes a difference in your success in this class.
- ANY STUDENT CAUGHT SIGNING IN FOR ANOTHER STUDENT WILL RESULT IN ALL PARTIES BEING DROPPED 1 (ONE) LETTER GRADE.
Late Work

- **Unexcused late work or missed tests will not be accepted.**
- If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline or if you miss an in-class test, 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.

Course Outline

Getting Started

- Download *Starry Night College* software onto your computer. The software download instructions are given on the inside cover of your *Starry Night Workbook*.
- Alternatively, you can also access *Starry Night College* in the MCS 111 computer lab (computers 10-44), but you will still need to purchase the *Starry Night Workbook* to have access to the Student Exercise instructions and answer sheets.
- Make sure you read the Preface (p. vii) and Quick Tips (p. ix) in the workbook.

Action Plan

Follow this plan as you work your way through each lab assignment:

1. Labs will be assigned on the day of our class meeting each week (Wednesday at 3 PM). I will give you pre-lab instructions in class. This usually takes 30 minutes or less.
2. Go to the site that you choose to complete this lab (either the MCS 111 computer lab or use your personal computer).
3. Follow the instructions (LAB INSTRUCTIONS tab in Blackboard) for each lab carefully and fully.
4. Do each lab as assigned (see lab assignment schedule below), answering all the questions and/or recording data on the *Starry Night Workbook* answer sheet or on the *Starry Night Work Sheets* (available on our Blackboard site).
5. I recommend that you do the labs on the day they are assigned, since you will already have a two-hour block of time built into your schedule for this class.
6. After you complete the lab, take the Blackboard lab quiz (look in the LAB TESTS tab).
7. Make sure you **submit the test** when you complete it and that you meet the deadline for submission for the test.
8. You can use your completed workbook answer sheet pages or work sheets to help you while taking the test.
9. You **do not** have to turn in the answer sheet from the *Starry Night Workbook* or the work sheets.
10. Grades will be reported in Blackboard (Tools/My Grades).
Laboratory Assignments and Due Dates

NOTE: “End of the day” means 11:59 PM and tests are unavailable after 11:30 PM

Jan 15 – Lab 1 – Starry Night Tutorial
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Jan 19.

Jan 22 – Lab 2 – Starry Night Student Exercises E1, E2, E3, & E4
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Jan 26.

Jan 29 – Lab 3 – Starry Night Student Exercises B3, B4, & B5
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Feb 2.

Feb 5 – Lab 4 – Starry Night Student Exercises F1, F2, F3, F4, & F5
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Feb 9.

Feb 12 – Lab 5 – The Magnitude Scale and Distances (p. 67 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Feb 16.

Feb 19 – Lab 6 – Stars and the HR Diagram (p. 71 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Feb 23.

Feb 26 – Lab 7 – Nebulae: The Birth and Death of Stars (p. 75 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Mar 1.

Mar 4 – Lab 8 – Pulsars and Supernova Remnants (p. 79 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Mar 8.

Mar 18 – Lab 9 – Starry Night Student Exercises F6, F7, & F8
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Mar 22.

Mar 25 – Lab 10 – Starry Night Student Exercises G1, G2, G3, & G4
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Mar 29.

Apr 1 – Lab 11 – Quasars and Active Galaxies (p. 87 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Apr 5.

Apr 8 – Lab 12 – Views of the Milky Way (p. 91 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Apr 12.

Apr 15 – Lab 13 – Globular Clusters (p. 95 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Apr 19.

Apr 22 – Lab 14 – The Neighborhood of the Sun (p. 99 in workbook)
Blackboard test due by the end of the day Sunday Apr 26.