

ASTRONOMY 10

Stellar Astronomy De Anza College Winter 2014

Instructor: Eric Peterson, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in E33A

Textbook: Stars and Galaxies, 8th ed.
by Seeds & Backman

Introduction

Astronomy 10 is an introductory course which is intended to provide a survey of our knowledge of the planets, stars, galaxies, and of the entire universe. We will examine both the history of humanity's quest to understand the cosmos as well as the current state of that understanding. The course has no prerequisites and is taught with the non-science major in mind

Format

Our time in class will be divided between lectures and audio/visual programs, including videos and demonstrations with the Fujitsu star projector and the Digital Sky system. You can expect to be tested on all of the material presented in class as well as in the textbook. The material presented in class will not always be covered in the book.

Because of the closed and darkened nature of the planetarium during audio-visual presentations, class meetings must begin on time. If you arrive late and find the door locked because a program is in progress, do not attempt to enter or knock.

Registration

If you wish to add the class, you must obtain an add code from me. It is your responsibility to use the add code before the deadline.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting, and I will be free to drop you from the course if you have four or more unexcused absences. However, official withdrawal from the class is the **student's responsibility**.

Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1. January 6	1-3
2. January 13	4-5
3. January 20	6-7
4. January 27	8
5. February 3	9-10
6. February 10	11-12
7. February 17	13-14
8. February 24	15
9. March 3	16
10. March 10	17
11. March 17	18
12. March 24	Review

Exams and Grades

There will be three exams (two midterms and the final), and your final letter grade will be based exclusively on those exams. Each midterm is worth 30% of your grade. The final exam will be comprehensive and is worth 40%. The final exam must be passed in order to pass the class. There is **no extra credit**.

The exams will be held on the following dates:

First exam:	Monday, January 27th
Second exam:	Monday, February 24th
Final exam:	Wednesday, March 26th, 6:15p.m.-8:15p.m.

No exam may be taken early. Without prior clearance from the instructor or a signed physician's excuse, a missed midterm exam must be made up within the next two work days. After that a grade of zero will be recorded. The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time on the scheduled day.

The exams will be of the multiple choice variety, and they will be graded on a curve. You will need a ParSCORE answer sheet and a #2 pencil for each exam.

Planetarium rules

The director of the planetarium hopes that your use of the facility is enjoyable and worthwhile. In order to maintain the Planetarium's valuable services to the community, he asks that you observe the following:

- * Absolutely no food, drink, or chewing gum is allowed in the planetarium.
- * Do not litter.
- * Do not leave bicycles or skateboards inside the building.
- * Protect the fabric on the seats: do not put your feet on the seats or leave hair-styling materials residue on them.