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1 Basic Information

• Prof. Eddie Baron
• Department of Physics and Astronomy
• Office: 323 Nielsen Hall
• Telephone: 325-3961 ext. 36323 (on campus dial: 3-6323)
• e-mail: baron@ou.edu
• Office Hours: MW 1:30 – 2:30 p.m and by appointment
• Lecture: Nielsen Hall A270 MWF 10:30-11:20

2 Discussion Instructors (TAs)

ASTR 1504

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Steele</td>
<td>NH 257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ang Liu (Grader)</td>
<td>NH 240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ASTR 1504

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Derkacy</td>
<td>NH 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ang Liu (Grader)</td>
<td>NH 240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3 Textbook

• Textbook: *Understanding Our Universe* by Stacey Palen, et al. 2nd Edition
4 Course description

- This course will present an elementary introduction to the study of the Universe, and the techniques and methods of physical science. This is a course in modern astronomy, which is based on the understanding of the way that stars, galaxies, and planets work as physical systems.

- The course consists of lecture and discussion sections. You must be enrolled in a discussion or lab section numbered 021–029, and you must pass the discussion or lab section in order to pass the course. The discussion or lab section is taught by your TA and you should think of it as a supplement to lecture, but somewhat separate. Labs will particularly emphasize material not covered in class, hopefully you will be rewarded with a deeper understanding of the Universe in which we live.

- Attendance is highly encouraged. There will be in-class questions and assignments that will count for 15% of your grade.

- The best way to be successful in this course is to keep up with the reading assignments and the lectures.

- There will be online quizzes 1-2 times a week on the assigned reading. These quizzes will be worth 10% of your grade.

  When you read, don’t highlight, UNDERLINE. If you are underlining more than a few sentences per page, you aren’t getting the important points.

- There are many ways to help you study. The textbook and lectures are your primary resources, but on D2L you will find (Under Content) numerous additional resources both from the book and that I and the TAs assemble.

- **ASK QUESTIONS!!**
  The best way to stay engaged and awake is to ask questions.

  There is no such thing as a stupid question: if you don’t understand **ASK!** Most likely your neighbors don’t understand that point either so do them a favor and **ASK!** that question you were thinking of.
It is best to ask questions *IN CLASS*, but if you are shy feel free to ask questions before class, after class, or privately during office hours.

- Both the TAs and I keep office hours to meet with you. Please come see me or your TA if you are having trouble with the course or if you just want to clear up a point you are unsure of. If you cannot make scheduled office hours we will be happy to arrange other times to meet with you. You can schedule an appointment before or after class, by email, or by telephone.

- Come see us early in the semester! There is little that can be done late in the semester.

- A list of tutors is available in the Department office (Rm. 100)

5 Course Organization

- The course will be broken up into 4 topics. We will spend between 3 and 5 weeks on each topic.

- Discussion (1504) or Lab (1514) is a chance to meet with your TA in a smaller group than lecture. There will be quizzes and exercises given in your discussion section that will cover the material in the lecture and the assigned reading. In Lab you will always do an observing exercise, either with the telescope (good weather) or with the computer (bad weather). You will need to know where to go based on the weather each week.

- Clickers: I use clickers to help me get feedback and to have you interact with your peers. You should make a friend in this class so that you can discuss clicker questions with your neighbor. Clicker questions are not graded, but you earn points for participation. **You must register your clicker!!**

- We will do some in-class exercises that illustrate the material covered in the lecture. These in-class exercises are worth 5% of the grade.

- There will be 3 midterm examinations. Each examination will include all the material that we have covered since the last midterm.
• The final examination will include all of the material covered in the course, but will focus on previously untested material.

• The lowest midterm grade, and lowest in-class work grade will be dropped. You **CANNOT** miss the final.

6 Test Policy

**THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS WHATSOEVER.**

7 Grading

The weight of each portion of the course will be:

Discussion Section 25%; In-Class Work 5%; Clickers 10%; Online quizzes 10%; Midterms 30%; Final 20%.

That is discussion/lab is worth 25 points, in-class work is worth 5 points, clicker participation is worth 10 points, online quizzes are worth 10 points, each midterm is worth 15 points, and I drop the lowest one, the final is worth 25 points:

\[ 25 + 5 + 10 + 10 + \frac{2 \times 15 + 20}{100} = 100 \text{ points} \]

I reserve the right to further curve the final grades, but the maximum required to receive a given letter grade points are as follows:


Thus, you are guaranteed an A if you get 87% or higher on each part of the course, a B if you get 77% or higher, and so on.

Grades will be available on Desire2Learn (D2L)

The first week you will have a homework to make sure that you are familiar with the use of Desire2Learn.
It is crucial that you check your grades to make sure that your records agree with mine.

Answers to exams will be posted, so you will always be able to self grade your exam (that means keep your copy of the exam and a record of your answers!)

8 Accommodations

8.1 Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

8.2 Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Students needing modifications or adjustments to course requirements because of documented pregnancy related or childbirth related issues should contact the Colleges Assistant/Associate Dean for Student Affairs (or academic advisor) as soon as possible to discuss their situation. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. See http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html for commonly asked questions.

8.3 Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or the Sexual Assault Response Team 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident. In a true emergency call the police at 911!
## 9 Schedule

Tentative Schedule of Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24 — Sep 23</td>
<td>Naked Eye Astronomy Light &amp; Telescopes</td>
<td>Chapters 1–2, 4, 10.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 28 — Oct 14</td>
<td>The Life of Stars</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 5, 10–13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 19 — Nov 18</td>
<td>Galaxies and Cosmology</td>
<td>Chapters 14–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Midterm 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 23 — Dec 11</td>
<td>The Solar System, Life in the Universe, and Review</td>
<td>Chapters 6–9, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The dates that we will spend on a given topic are approximate and we may spend more or less time on specific topics than indicated above. The midterms, however, **will** occur on the dates specified and will include all the material that we have covered since the last midterm. The final exam will include all the material that we have covered in the course, but will be more heavily focused on material that has not yet been tested.