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Earth Science 130 Astronomy Spring 2006

(syllabus subject to change)

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Office hours: MWF 11:00 - noon

Date	Class	Topics	Cosmic Perspective	www.astronomyplace.com		
				tutorial	movies	interactive figure
Jan 17	1	Introduction; Atmosphere	1-23; 121-126			7.06, 7.14
19	2	Earth as a planet	167-180; 197-209	7.1		7.06-7.34
24	3	Rotation of Earth (select term project topic)	24-51			
26	4	Revolution of Earth	76-101	2.2		
31	5	Optics and Telescopes*	117-120; 127-129	5.3		14.11
Feb. 2	6	Earth/ Moon System	180-197	2.3		7.09
7	7	Timekeeping & Navigation			2.1	2.10-2.28
9	8	History of Astronomy (project progress report due)	52-75	3.4		3.13-3.21
14	9	Motion of the Planets*	130-166	4.2-4.4; 6.1	6.2	4.03-4.22
16	10	Test # 1 (classes 1-9); Mercury		7.3		
21	11	Venus and Mars				
23	12	Jupiter*	210-225	8.1		8.08-8.27
28	13	Saturn, Uranus, Neptune	226-235			
Mar. 2	14	Comets and Asteroids	236-256		9.1, 9.4	9.01-9.11
14	15	The Sun	257-277	10.1	10.1	10.03-10.16
16	16	Nature of Light	102-117	5.1, 5.2		5.03-5.13
21	17	Stellar Spectra*	278-292	11.2		11.02-11.10
23	18	H-R Diagram	292-300	11.3		
28	19	Stellar Properties	301-314	12.2	12.1	
30	20	Stellar Mass	314-327			
Apr. 4	21	Test #2 (classes 10-20); Variable Stars*	328-334			12.02-12.18
6	22	Nebulae, Clusters* & Milky Way	349-372		14.4	
11	23	Stellar Genesis*	334-348	13.4		13.11-13.14
13	24	Galaxies and Quasars	373-403	14.4		14.01-14.18
18	25	Cosmology	455-488	15.3	15.2	15.15-15.24
20	26	Term Project Presentations	429-454			
25	27	The Universe	404-428	16.4		16.01-16.14
27	28	Cosmology	455-488	6.4; 6.5; 18.1	1.2; 18.1	6.17-6.30; 17.03-17.08; 1.15; 18.15

* Indicates laboratory activities scheduled

The dates are only suggestive since the class may run ahead or behind the proposed syllabus. The sequence of topics, however, will occur in the order proposed here. Exam #1 and exam #2 will be scheduled according to the sequence rather than the dates. Copies of previous lecture tests are kept on reserve in the library.

Final Exam: Classes 20-30 emphasized, but exam is comprehensive. When scheduled by the Registrar.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS ON THE MORAVIAN INTRANET

On all Moravian public computers at "Start – Programs – Moravian Courseware – Astronomy Programs –"

Most astronomy programs can be downloaded from "My Computer – S drive – Moravian Courseware – Astronomy Programs -"

PUBLISHER'S INTERNET RESOURCES: Available from <http://www.astronomyplace.com>

TEXT: The Essential Cosmic Perspective, 3rd Edition, by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit, 2005.

NECESSARY EQUIPMENT:

Protractor of the type shown in class, metric rule, and pencil with eraser. Please carry this equipment to class as a matter of routine.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken in each class period. Unexcused absences in excess of three will reduce the final average of a student at a rate of 1% per absence. Students have the responsibility to secure and present evidence of the nature of excused absences.

FINAL

GRADE:

30%	average of homework and laboratories (the one lowest grade will be dropped)
20%	lecture test 1
20%	lecture test 2
20%	final exam (comprehensive, emphasizing last part of course)
<u>10%</u>	term project
100%	

HOMEWORK AND LABORATORY ASSIGNMENTS:

All laboratory and homework assignment are due within one week from the time the assignment is made. Assignments will be accepted one class period later than the time limit, but a penalty of 20 points will be subtracted from the score (except in those cases where an excused absence applies). Assignments later than indicated above will not be accepted. All homework assignments and laboratories are to be done in pencil. The policy on academic honesty, as stated on the appropriate pages of the most recent version of the *Student Handbook*, will apply to all graded portions of this course.

TERM PROJECT:

Each student will complete a project that involves observations over the course of the semester. Students may select one project from a list that will be supplied, or they may propose a project of their own design. All term projects represent work done by individual students; no group projects are permitted. Each project requires the student to (1) observe astronomical phenomena to gather data, (2) organize and present the data, and (3) make reasonable deductions based on the data.

The grade will be determined by the person's ability to do the three steps outlined above. The term project should be selected by the third class period. A progress report on the project is due by the 8th class period. A final written report and a short oral report to the class are scheduled for the second-last class period of the semester.

OBSERVATION SESSIONS:

On several occasions during the semester the class will go to the telescope platform on the upper roof of Collier Hall of Science for telescopic observation sessions. On cold nights, which are characteristic of winter evenings that are clear, you should dress warmly for class and wear a hat and gloves because we may be outside on the roof for as long as two or more hours. These observation sessions are usually spontaneous because they are based upon the prevailing weather, the current sky conditions, the available celestial objects, and the material currently or previously covered in the course.

Course Objectives: Students will understand and/or demonstrate the following:

- the basic elements of time, date, seasons, positional coordinates, and observed celestial motions
- the appropriate methods by which celestial objects and systems are observed, studied, presented, and analyzed
- the use of the telescope for making astronomical observations
- a reasonable sense of scale concerning sizes, distances, brightness, masses, speeds, forces, and processes
- application of appropriate fundamental scientific principles to study celestial objects and systems
- the interaction and evolution of celestial objects and systems through time

