

Science 3 (Astronomy) SYLLABUS

Fall 2010

MWF 11:00-11:50 AM and Lab class W 2:00 - 3:50 PM

Instructor: Lauren J. Novatne
Phone Number: 638 - 3641 ext. 3434

****Office hours: Tu 1 - 2 PM, W & Th 2-3 PM ****
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Textbook: "The Cosmic Perspective Fundamentals", Bennett, Donahue, Schneider and Voit, 1st edition, Pearson/Addison-Wesley Publishers **MASTERING ASTRONOMY IS REQUIRED!! \$35**

You will also be required to purchase an online access code for the Mastering Astronomy website. Access codes are available at the Reedley College bookstore, and also online directly.

Course Objective: This course covers Astronomical concepts with a minimum of math, while fulfilling the science with a lab general education requirement for the CSU and UC systems.

The topics covered in this course are: planets, solar system mechanics, stellar evolution and basic cosmology.

Calendar: **Holidays:** Monday September 6th, Thursday November 11th, Thursday and Friday November 25th and 26th

LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS: FRIDAY October 15th. AFTER THAT DATE, I MUST GIVE YOU A GRADE!!

Final Exam: Wednesday December 15th at 11 AM

You will need to purchase internet access to the publisher's web site called Mastering Astronomy at a cost of \$35. This is REQUIRED!

Homework: Doing your homework assists you in two ways: 1) it helps you learn the material by practicing problem solving skills, and 2) it lifts your grade. Your homework is 10% of your semester grade. This means that if you get 100% for the other parts of your grade, and don't do any homework, you will get a 'C', not an 'A' for the course. It also means that if you do your homework, and your grade is a 75%, you will get an 'A' in the course, not a 'C'.

Exams: There will (probably) be three midterm exams and one final exam. The exams have conceptual questions that are multiple choice in format. There will also be some very simple algebra problems that are appropriate for astronomy. You will also have some essay questions. Don't worry, you'll have lots of support for the math part. The exams contribute 60% of your semester grade, so they are very important to prepare for.

There are occasionally some quizzes given in class, some are announced, and others are not. If you do not communicate with me *PRIOR TO THE END OF THE CLASS MEETING TIME* that you are not going to be present in class, then you will receive a score of ZERO for that quiz, and you will not be able to make up the quiz. You may inform me in person, by phone (leave a message on my voice mail if I don't answer the phone), or by email. Sending a message through a classmate or friend disqualifies you from the exemption. This is YOUR grade, so YOU must communicate with me regarding your ability to be present. I do NOT want to know why you will miss class - just that you will not be present.

You will need to purchase scantron forms for the exams. If you do not have a scantron form on exam day, you will receive a grade of "F" for that exam.

Laboratory: This class has a lab that is mandatory. There will be lab reports due at the end of each session. The reports will constitute 10% of your semester grade.

Participation: There are in-class activities that are graded on your participation. These activities are varied in type, and include computer simulations, problem solving sessions, and other activities that are designed to assist you in learning physics as well as assisting me in determining how well you are learning the material. Participation accounts for 10% of your grade, so it is important that you are in class AND participate.

Grading Policy:	90 - 100 %	A	Homework	10%
	80 - 89 %	B	Exams	60%
	65 - 79 %	C	Lab Reports	15%
	55 - 64%	D	Participation	15%
	0 - 54%	F		

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, be sure to ask me lots and lots of questions, no matter how stupid your question seems to you. So far, the only question I consider stupid is the one that isn't asked.