

Introduction to Astronomy Course Syllabus*

*Students may want to **print** this syllabus in order to have all key course information available off-line. Rev 08/27/12

Course Information:	Course Number: / Course Name: PHY1213 Introduction to Astronomy Classroom: S211 CRN: 1945
Instructor Contact Information:	Name: Dr. Scott Schneider Title: Associate Professor of Physics Telephone: x3545 Cell: 248-880-7177 E-mail: sschneide@ltu.edu Office Location / Hours: S234 - Office Hours in AAC - Mon/Wed 11am-12:30pm
Meeting Dates:	Mon/Wed/Fri 1:00-1:50pm <i>Tentatively: Test 1=Mon 09/24 Test 2=Fri 10/26 Test 3=Fri 11/16 Test 4=Fri Dec 7th</i> Final exam day: Wednesday Dec 19th 1-3pm
Course Prerequisites:	None
Course Text Books and Other Materials	Required Text(s): Fundamentals of College Astronomy, Michael LoPresto (1st Ed.) KH Webcom PAK ISBN: 978-0-7575-9592-9 (this has an access code for a website, you CANNOT use a used book with this course!)
Course website:	http://vnatsci.ltu.edu/s_schneider/intro_astro.shtml (In addition to BB course page)
Course Description	A survey of contemporary knowledge of the nature and the evolution of planets, stars, galaxies and the universe. Topics include stellar evolution, the origin of the elements, the deaths of stars, black holes, the structure of the Milky Way galaxy, other galaxies, dark matter, the expanding universe and the big bang. The following courses can be taken concurrently with this course: MCS 0054, MCS 0055, MCS 1414, MCS 1214, MCS 1224, MCS 1254, MCS 1113.
Course Objectives	* Course Objectives are posted in the Bb course page
Technical Support:	For software, hardware or Blackboard issues, contact the LTU Help Desk Telephone: 248-204-2330 E-mail: helpdesk@ltu.edu
Academic Support:	My office hours (held in AAC) will be posted on Bb site – tentatively: Mon/Wed 11am-12:30pm Academic Achievement Center Telephone: 248-204-4120 E-mail: aac@ltu.edu
Student Services Support:	Office of Student Affairs Telephone: 248-204-4100 Website: http://www.ltu.edu/student_affairs/index.asp LTU Hotline: To check for school closing, Blackboard/Banner availability, or other issues call the LTU Hotline at 248-204-2222. Campus Safety Services 248-204-3945
Course Policies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance - Students are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours, after class or at home if they are having difficulties in the course. 2. Conduct - Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and to be courteous to their classmates. The use of objectionable language is strictly prohibited. Additionally, cell phones, pagers, and other personal electronics should be set to silent mode. Additional information covering the Student Code of Conduct can be accessed at http://www.ltu.edu/student_affairs/student_conduct.asp 3. Academic Integrity - Students are expected to do their own work at all times. While it is acceptable to discuss homework and case assignments with others, students should first attempt to solve assigned work themselves. In no case will copied work from another be considered acceptable. With respect to papers, students must submit original work done specifically for this course by the student. Any cheating on exams or papers will result in a score of zero and, potentially, a referral to the Dean. For more information visit Academic Honor Code at http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor_code.asp 4. Freshman withdrawal – Freshman need to obtain permission from the instructor before withdrawing from the course – grades will be posted often so you can judge your progress in the course (most definitely come see me if you are struggling).

Student Evaluation			Percentage	Letter Grade
	Assignments	Points	>=95	A
	Tests x4 – 50 pts each – drop one (60% online 40% in-class)	~150	>=90 <95	A-
	Quizzes x~13 – 10 points each – drop lowest (online)	~120	>=87 <90	B+
	Final exam – 50 pts in-class	~50	>=83 <87	B
	Total Points	~320	>=80 <83	B-
			>=77 <80	C+
			>=73 <77	C
			>=70 <73	C-
			>=61 <70	D
		<61	F	
Course Schedule	A detailed course schedule is posted on the Bb course page.			
Laptop usage	We will be using the laptops for notes in class – as well as accessing PDF worksheets/activities in class.			
Drop day with “W”	Wednesday November 28th, 2012			
Daylight Savings	November 4th, 2012 (Click here - check out the cool "nodes"!.) http://www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html			

Description of Assignments/Responsibilities

Text Reading

It is important to be prepared for the class sessions (since many of the sessions will be discussions, as opposed to lecture).

In-class tutorials

We will have occasional in-class astronomy tutorials that we will work on during some of the class sessions.

Online tutorials

There are tutorials on the website - you should step through them (along with the subject matter in class) – these can be done "at your pace" (within reason) - there are also periodic quizzes - **you need to complete the tutorial "assessments" before** you can take the quizzes!

Quizzes

There are a series of chapter quizzes in the online system during the term. The online quizzes will be open book, but there will be certain due dates indicated. **Quizzes make up roughly 35% of your grade.**

Hour Exams

There are three exams during the term – they are split 60%/40% for inclass/online portions of the exams. The in-class portions will be open book, but obviously timed. **Tests make up roughly 50% of your grade.**

Final exam

The final exam questions should roughly align with the major topics of the course, and the relative time spent on the topics – it will also have a 60/40 split. **The final makes up roughly 15% of your grade.**