Solar System Astronomy
Astronomy & 110
Fall 2010 Syllabus

Instructor
• Frank Skorina
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• Office in room 40, way in the back
• 527-4578 (w), 301-3839 (c)

Course Description
This course explores our solar system. It will cover not only the objects—planets, moons, asteroids, comets, meteors, and objects beyond Pluto’s orbit, but also behaviors—eclipses, shooting stars, and paths of objects. Added to this, we will discuss how we know what we know such as proving the Earth is a sphere, planets orbit the sun (and not the Earth), and the size and mass of the solar system objects.

Class Schedule
• Mon., Tue., Fri., Room 225, 8:30 am – 9:20 am
• Thursdays, Room 208, 8:30 am – 9:20 am
• Wednesdays, Room 225, 8:30 am – 10:20 am (LABS)
• No class on Thursday, November 11 (Veterans’ Day)
• No class on Wednesday, November 17 (Advising Day)
• No class on November 22-26 (Thanksgiving Week)
• Last Class is on Monday, December 6
• Final exam is on Tuesday, December 7, Room 225, 8:30 am – 10:30 am

Materials
• In Quest of the Universe, 6th Edition; by Kuhn and Koupelis, 2011
• Scientific calculator

Grading
• Three Exams, 40%
• Final Exam, 20%
• Labs Exercises, 15%
• Quizzes, 10%
• Weekly Reports, 10%
• Daily Reports, 5%
• Grade Table where x is the percent of points earned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>90 ≤ x ≤ 100</th>
<th>87 ≤ x &lt; 90</th>
<th>77 ≤ x &lt; 80</th>
<th>67 ≤ x &lt; 70</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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Exams
- Three exams during the quarter consisting of a variety of question types.
- One comprehensive final exam.
- Make-Up exams will only be given when I have been notified in advance with a verifiable reason that I determine is adequate.

Labs
After each lab session there will be a worksheet or lab write-up to be handed in. This will be due on the Friday following the lab. Late labs will be accepted up to one week late, but will receive a substantial grade reduction.

Homework
There are review questions at the end of each chapter in the textbook. Although I will not be collecting homework, I strongly urge you to write out each of the answers. There will be no better method of studying for tests and the final than going over the answers to these review questions and reading through your lecture notes.

Weekly Reports
A variety of brief informational research projects will be assigned.
- Grading will be based on the following criteria.
  - Whether the report is on-topic.
  - How well the project conveys the information.
  - Whether accurate references are cited.
  - Half page (5 ½ in), double-spaced, 1 inch margins minimum length.
  - Typed (required).

Daily Reports
At the end of each class you will be given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions regarding the materials presented that day, or anything else within the bounds of the class. You will be given 2 points for the report each day. I find this a productive way of checking attendance. If you come to class after I have begun the day’s lecture I will only give you 1 point for your Daily Report.

Quizzes
There will be approximately 20 quizzes. Quizzes will be on the material just covered, usually on a lecture from the last two days. The top 15 quizzes will count towards the final quiz grade. Quizzes will be graded out of 5. There will not be any opportunity to make up quizzes.

Accommodations
If you have a disability and need accommodations, please see the instructor after class or contact Claudia Angus, the Disabilities Coordinator at claudia.angus@wwcc.edu or 509-527-4543.
Weekly Schedule

Week #1, Sept. 20 – Sept. 24
  Chapter 1 – The Quest Ahead

Week #2, Sept. 27 – Oct. 1
  Chapter 1 – The Quest Ahead (continued)
  Chapter 2 – From an Earth-Centered to a Sun-Centered System

Week #3, Oct. 4 – Oct. 8
  Chapter 2 – From an Earth-Centered to a Sun-Centered System (cont)

Week #4, Oct. 11 – Oct. 15
  Chapter 2 – From an Earth-Centered to a Sun-Centered System (cont)
  Exam #1 on Wednesday, October 13 (Chapters 1-2)
  Chapter 3 – Gravity and the Rise of Modern Astronomy

Week #5, Oct. 18 – Oct. 22
  Chapter 3 – Gravity and the Rise of Modern Astronomy (cont.)
  Chapter 6 – The Earth-Moon System

Week #6, Oct. 25 – Oct. 29
  Chapter 7 – A Planetary Overview

Week #7, Nov. 1 – Nov. 5
  Chapter 7 – A Planetary Overview (cont)
  Exam #2 on Friday, November, 5 (Chapters 3, 6-7)

Week #8, Nov. 8 – Nov. 12
  Chapter 8 – The Terrestrial Planets
  No Class Thursday

Week #9, Nov. 15 – Nov. 19
  Chapter 9 – The Jovian Planets
  No Class Wednesday
  Exam #3 on Friday, November 19 (Chapters 8-9)

Week #10, Nov. 29 – Dec. 3
  Chapter 10 – Dwarf Planets and Solar System Debris

Week #11, Dec. 6 – Dec. 7
  Review Monday
  Final Exam on Tuesday, December 7 (Chapters 1-3, 6-10)

Disclaimer
Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time.