

Astronomy 101 Fall 2021: Descriptive Astronomy

rev 8/14/2021

Instructor: James Hill, 662-547-6970 (H), 662-392-1862 (C) email jhill6333@gmail.com

Class: T & Th 9:30-10:45 AM

Office Hours: Lewis Hall 121A, Tu & Th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Text: The **Essential** Cosmic Perspective, Bennett et al., 8th Edition, 201 (**6th, 7th ed. are OK**)

Learning Objectives:

1. Know the history and physics background of astronomy,
2. Know the characteristics of solar system's bodies
3. Know how we know about stars, galaxies, and cosmology

You should read the assigned chapter **before** class. Use the chapter notes as study guides.

Note: The schedule below is subject to adjustment.

Date	Subject	Chapter
24 Aug	A modern view of the universe	1
26 Aug	Discovering the universe for yourself: Constellations, seasons, & Moon	2
31 Aug	The science of astronomy: Brief history, from the ancients to Galileo	3
2 Sept	The science of astronomy: the nature of science	3
7 Sept	Making sense of motion, energy, & gravity, Newton's Laws	4
14 Sep	Light: the cosmic messenger	5
16 Sep	Telescopes	5
21 Sep	Test 1	6
23 Sep	Formation of the solar system	6
28 Sep	Earth & other terrestrial worlds	7
5 Oct	Earth & other terrestrial worlds	7
7 Oct	Jovian planet systems	8
12 Oct	Jovian planet systems	8
14 Oct	Small solar system bodies	9
19 Oct	Exoplanets	10
21 Oct	Test 2	11
26 Oct	Stars: Our Sun	11
28 Oct	Stars: Surveying the characteristics of stars	12
2 Nov	Stars: Star lives	13
4 Nov	Stars: Stellar death	14
9 Nov	Galaxies: The Milky Way: our galaxy	15
11 Nov	Galaxies: A universe of galaxies	16
16 Nov	Cosmology: The birth of the universe	17
18 Nov	Cosmology: The fate of the universe	18
30 Nov	Test 3	19
2 Dec	Astrobiology: Life in the universe	19
9 Dec	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM 8:00 AM	ch 1-19

Semester Grade Algorithm:

30% Average of Weekly Homework/Quizzes, on Blackboard

45% Average of the 3 monthly unit tests

25% Final Exam: chapters 1-19

Attendance at all classes is expected. Automated attendance will be taken. Always have your Ole Miss ID card with you to sign in to class. More than 3 unexcused absences can affect your grade.

The course syllabus (under “syllabus”) and chapter study-guide outlines (under “content”) are posted on Blackboard. The outlines should be used as study guides. Lecture Slides will be posted on Blackboard. Recordings of lectures for review are on my Google Drive. (videos are not numbered with Astro 101 chapters, but you’ll get an explanation key at class)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/118y31Bf0mYQ-9IFTL0j6OHHETJ47taL4>

Two weekly online Homework/quizzes will be posted on Blackboard. The quizzes are open book and due to be submitted by Saturday at midnight.

Answers to HW/quizzes and tests will be posted on Blackboard. Use back quizzes and tests to correct misunderstandings and use as study guides. Quizzes and tests will be mostly based on the text though other topics will also be covered during the lectures and may be included on tests.

Some extra credit reading/journaling, outside class video viewing, or other activities can add points to your exam score. Details will be announced in class and by email.

Recommended YouTube videos: “Study Less - Study Smart” by Marty Lobdell

Other class related videos will be recommended in lectures and emails.

Keep up with posted grades. Don’t wait to notice missing work at the end of the semester.

If you haven’t done so already, plan to get your Covid vaccine shots before class begins.

Recommended sources to check out or subscribe to: (I’m always looking for other good sites and books. Let me know if you run across good ones.)

APOD (Astronomy Picture of the Day) at apod.nasa.gov daily images and astro information

Space news is at universetoday.com astronomy.com and skyandtelescope.com

Monthly sky maps and info at skymaps.com

YouTube site for Astrum. Check out the videos. Be ready to skip the ads.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-9b7aDP6ZN0coj9-xFnrtw>