

PHYS 1303 - Stars and Galaxies - Fall 2019

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Prerequisites: TSI completion and good computer skills coupled with an awe and wonder about the world around us combined with a desire to learn should be all you need to be successful in this course.

Text: The Cosmic Perspective, 9th Edition, Nemmett, Donahue, Schneider, Voit, with Mastering Astronomy, Paper bound, Pearson.

Office Hours: I am most easily contacted via email at my address given above. When doing so, please mention which course you are in and, if it applies, what assignment you are asking about. You may also look at the schedule on my office door to get my office hours or just stop by the lab when I am not in class. Please do not hesitate to contact me for help, to get advice, or just chat about whatever. I am here for your success.

Tentative Exam Schedule:

- There are 5 chapter exams and a final exam
 - Exam 1 covers Chapters 1, 5, 6
 - Exam 2 covers Chapters S2, S3, S4
 - Exam 3 covers Chapters 14 - 17
 - Exam 4 covers Chapters 18 - 20
 - Exam 5 covers Chapters 21 - 23
 - Final Exam is scheduled by the College
- Marker tags for exams are found on the assignment calendar in Mastering Astronomy

Grading Scale: The standard scale is used for this class.

A: $90.00 \leq$ semester average
B: $80.00 \leq$ semester average < 90.00
C: $70.00 \leq$ semester average < 80.00
D: $60.00 \leq$ semester average < 70.00
F: semester average < 60.00

You will be given your composite class grade and class rank after each exam. The self-paced nature of this course makes it difficult to keep track of specific student's grades throughout the semester but ask and I will get it to you.

Grading Weights:

- The semester average is calculated based on the following weights
 - MasteringAstronomy Quizzes - 12%
 - MasteringAstronomy (PowerPoint) Reviews - 10%
 - MasteringAstronomy Activities - 18%
 - Discussion/Participation Assignments - 5%
 - In Class Exams 45%
 - Final Exam 10%
- MasteringAstronomy assignments are norm referenced so that the highest grade per assignment is renormed to 100% by a multiplicative factor.

MasteringAstronomy Information:

- The MasteringAstronomy web site is www.masteringastronomy.com
- The MasteringAstronomy class id for this class is: ASTRONOMY1303Fall2019.
- You will need your access code from your book if you purchased a new one or a credit card or a PayPal account if you have a used book.
- You should have a high bandwidth connection when using MasteringAstronomy as it brings down a large amount of graphics data and programming information.
- All students should be enrolled in Mastering and have joined the class by the end of the first week of the semester.

- Homework should be done in groups if possible.
- Your fellow classmates can serve as a great resource for discussion as to how to attempt the homework.
- A journal or notebook should be kept and referenced when asking the instructor for assistance.
- Target dates for the homework may initially be set in Mastering but the final due date for assignments is the night of the exam for which the specific chapters are covered.
- Homework turned in after the final due date will incur a penalty but may be turned in as late as the night of the last chapter exam. Please see information on specific assignments for the value of the late penalty.
- Failure to complete Mastering assignments will make it impossible to pass the course.

MasteringAstronomy Quizzes Information:

- Each chapter has a reading quiz, conceptual quiz, and visual quiz.
- You should do these quizzes in the self study area of MasteringAstronomy first.
- After doing the quiz in the Self Study area, you should use your results to complete the corresponding quiz in the assignment section of MasteringAstronomy. Most of the questions will be the same.
- Therefore, you should be making 100's or very close on all your quizzes.
- There are no time limits on these assignments.
- Check the grading policy inside the assignment in mastering for information such as number of tries, late penalties, etc.
- There is a late penalty but you always can turn turn the assignment in for partial credit after the due date. Check the grading policy inside the assignment for the specific penalty.
- The last date to turn in an assignment for any credit at all is the day of the last unit exam is scheduled.

MasteringAstronomy (PowerPoint) Reviews:

- These assignments are designed to get you to look through the PowerPoint presentations.
- Download the PowerPoints and read/search through them to find the information you need to complete these assignments.
- Since you can locate the answers in the PowerPoints, you should be making 100's or very close on all your reviews.
- There are no time limits on these assignments.
- Check the grading policy inside the assignment in mastering for information such as number of tries, late penalties, etc.
- There is a late penalty but you always can turn turn the assignment in for partial credit after the due date. Check the grading policy inside the assignment for the specific penalty.
- The last date to turn in an assignment for any credit at all is the day of the last unit exam is scheduled.

MasteringAstronomy Activities Information:

- Activities are not found in the self study area; hence, they should be completed after you have taken all quizzes and completed all review assignments.
- You may find items in the student area that may help you with these assignments.
- There are no time limits on these assignments.
- Check the grading policy inside the assignment in mastering for information such as number of tries, late penalties, etc.
- There is a late penalty but you always can turn turn the assignment in for partial credit after the due date. Check the grading policy inside the assignment for the specific late penalty.
- The last date to turn in an assignment for any credit at all is the day of the last unit exam is scheduled.
- The student may request via email to have each activities assignment reset once to improve their grade.
- Once the assignment is reset, the student must complete the entire assignment again.
- Before requesting a reset, the student should have journaled the information necessary to complete the assignment.
- Resets can not be rolled back. Before you send the email, make sure this is what you want to do.

Discussion/Participation Information:

- These represent a set of additional assignments that will be email or posted in MasteringAstronomy.
- There are no time limits on these assignments.
- Due dates for these assignments are set in MasteringAstronomy and may not be adjusted.
- Check the grading policy inside the assignment in mastering for information such as number of tries, late penalties, etc.

- There is a late penalty and in most cases a short time of grace before you can receive no credit.
- Some assignments may require you going to the Temple College Library to complete the assignments.
- These assignments consist of video reviews, questions on videos, opinion papers, and other items posted on the MasteringAstronomy calendar.
- Some of these assignments are required, others are optional and will be designated as such to make it clear.
- Depending on the number of optional assignments, a limited number of them will be dropped. News items in Mastering will provide more information.

Unit Exam Information:

- Exam dates will be announced in MasteringAstronomy. Make sure you get this information.
- Exams should be taken at the Temple College Testing Center or other preapproved testing center.
- Calculators will not be needed on the exams.
- Students are responsible for scheduling their exams with the testing center.
- The final exam grade will replace the lowest exam grade or missed exam grade of 0 provided the weighted average of the MasteringAstronomy (non exam) assignments is greater than 85%.
- Only one exam may be made up and it must be made up in the above fashion.
- The second and subsequent missed exams will remain recorded as a 0.
- You may take any exams in the Testing Center anytime during the semester before the exam date in MasteringAstronomy.
- You can complete this course as early as you are willing to do it.

Final Exam Information:

- The final exam will be given at the Temple College Testing Center or a pre-approved testing center.
- The final exam may be taken anytime during the semester.
- The final exam is comprehensive.
- The exam average score may be used for the final exam score if the Mastering homework (non exam) assignments average after the last chapter exam is greater than or equal to 85%. Doing so will allow the student to be considered "final exempt".
- The final exam grade will be considered as the higher of the grade made on the final exam and the unit exam average if the student is final exempt. Otherwise, it will be the actual score on the final exam.
- Periodically, the student's Mastering homework average will be posted back to Mastering.

Classroom Information:

- All exams including the final if necessary will be given at the Temple College Testing Center or an otherwise approved testing center.
- Homework should be done in groups as much as possible as that will help make the class more enjoyable and reinforce the concepts being studied.
- Students should take advantage of special activities announced in class to further their enjoyment of astronomy.
- It would be good to take advantage of the self paced nature of the course and get through with it as early in the semester as possible.
- Astronomy should be shared with your friends and family. This will help reinforce what you learned in the class.

Attendance Information:

- Progress in completing MasteringAstronomy assignments will be considered as attendance.
- Students should designate and follow through with specific times every week to work on the homework
- Students should familiarize themselves with drop dates, etc.
- It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the class if they wish to be dropped from the roll. This may be done at the Admissions and Records Office.
- The instructor may drop students who appear to have quit the class or failed to start the class in accord with the College policy.
- In certain instances and when it is in the best interest of the College, a student falling behind in the course may be withdrawn.
- The College has many resources for students to help with their college career and life in general.
- If you are experiencing anything that is keeping you from succeeding, please seek out assistance as quickly as possible.