

Phys 1533 – Descriptive Astronomy Online

Instructor: Dr. Jackie Dunn

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Textbook: *Astronomy, The Universe at a Glance with MasteringAstronomy* by Chaisson & McMillan (provided online through the program discussed below) and *Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3rd Edition* by Prather, Slater, Adams, & Brissenden (required, available for purchase in the MSU bookstore – ISBN: 9780321820464)

Required digital materials for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Students are charged for required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Any students who wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own must do so prior to 09/07/21. Opt-out instructions are sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address after the first day of class. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process.

Grading: Labs – 15%, MasteringAstronomy – 15%, Project – 15%, Discussion/Participation – 10%, Exams (3 @ 15% each) – 45%

Please note: no incompletes will be given for any reason – no extensions or exceptions!

Office Hours: I prefer to discuss this course via email or within the discussion boards since it is an online section. If you need to meet in person, please send me an email to make an appointment.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of astronomy. AKA The Universe in a Semester.

Lab: Labs will sometimes come from the Lecture Tutorials handbook, other times it will involve making use of resources available on the internet.

Expectations: Students should read the chapters to be covered prior to looking over the lectures and attempting any assignments. We have adopted a new, more concise text. Please use it!

Please note that late work will not be accepted for any reason. Also note that submitted work must be in the stated format as requested on D2L or MasteringAstronomy. Failure to use the proper format or file type, as well as failure to meet the stated deadlines, will result in a grade of zero for the respective assignment.

All files uploaded to D2L should be Word documents, PDF files, or plain text files (.txt or copy / pasted directly into the textbox submission) unless stated otherwise in the assignment instructions.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Examples of cheating and plagiarism include, but are not limited to, copying another student's work and submitting as your own, copying information from a website, journal, or any other written source and submitting as your own (regardless of whether or not you have cited the work), and taking direct quotes or information from any source without citing the reference. All assignments you submit in this course are expected to represent your original work. Appropriate use of references includes extracting information in support of your own stated arguments, not copying said references verbatim in their entirety. **A single infraction will result in receiving a zero on the relevant assignment. Multiple infractions will result in failing the course, and the information will be forwarded to the appropriate members of the university administration for consideration of further consequences.** If you are ever in doubt as to whether or not something will be considered cheating and / or plagiarism per this class policy, please email or talk to me before submitting the assignment.

Note: In accordance with the law, MSU provides students with documented disabilities academic accommodations. If you are a student with a disability, please contact me.

Note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Exams: Exams will be made available the evening prior to their scheduled date at 6:00 pm and will remain available until the end of the day on which they are scheduled (cut-off time will be 11:59 pm). The final exam will be cumulative. Exams will be timed exercises. The first two exams will be 25 multiple choice questions covering the material listed prior to their appearance on the Course Schedule. The final exam will be 50 multiple choice questions and will cover everything from the entire course. You will have 30 minutes each to complete Exam 1 and Exam 2, and 60 minutes to complete the final exam. Dates for the exams are below.

Exam 1: September 19, 2020
Exam 2: October 17, 2020
Final Exam: December 5, 2020

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. This report simply gives students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should seek out additional help in the class (contact the professor immediately if you do not know how or what to do for this).