



Course Syllabus: PHYS 1533
McCOY College of Science, Math and Engineering
Section X10
Spring 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Preet Sharma
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Office hours: Schedule uploaded on D2L
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Course Description

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

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3rd Edition by Prather, Slater, Adams, & Brissenden (required, available for purchase in the MSU bookstore – ISBN: 9780321820464)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

If you need Astronomy tutoring, please contact the library. They have a list of astronomy/physics tutors.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and

multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade – The assignments, tests and final exam will be graded by assigning a maximum of 5 points to each question. Each assignment will have 5-6 questions. Each test will have 5-6 questions. The final exam will have 6-10 questions. The total points of the assignments, tests and final exam will then be adjusted based on the points allocated to each of the above based on the distribution mentioned below in Table 1. Each lab will be worth 100 points each. At the end of the semester, the average of all the labs will be taken and the total points will be adjusted based on the distribution as mentioned in Table 1. There will be one class presentation and it will be worth 5 points. The total points will be adjusted based on the distribution mentioned in Table 1.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignment1	10
Assignment 2	10
Test 1	15
Test 2	15
Presentation	5
Lab	20
Final Exam	25
Total Points	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Assignment and Test Rules

- Assignment 1, Assignment 2 and the Presentation must be done in the assigned groups. The information about the groups will be given in class and uploaded on d2l.
- Any assignment which is not done as part of the group will receive a zero.
- Every member of the group must be satisfied with every member’s contribution.
- Test 1 and Test 2 must be done individually without any collaboration.

- Final exam must be done individually without any collaboration. Failing to turn in the final exam will result in failing the course.

Mid-Term Exam

Test 1 and Test 2 will count as mid-term exams

Final Exam

Final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of 6-10 questions. The date of the final exam is mentioned on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Extra Credit

Extra credit work may be offered based on the discussions in class. It will be uploaded on d2l.

Late Work

Penalty for late work is 10% of the total grade each day.

Make-up Work/Tests

Make-up work will be discussed in class and will be uploaded on d2l.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Online class

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as

the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

- Questions regarding grades of assignments and exams will be entertained only within a week of receiving the graded assignments and graded exams back from the instructor.
- Labs will start 2 weeks after the lectures start.
- The "FINAL CALCULATED GRADE" and the "FINAL ADJUSTED GRADE" will remain the same and there will be no rounding up of the final grades.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1	Astronomy concepts	N/A
Week 2	Astronomy concepts	N/A
Week 3	Astronomy concepts	N/A

NOTE: Everything will be posted on d2l and/or emailed to everyone in class.