

[Print this page](#)ASTRO 001 , Section 001: ASTRO UNIVERSE

**Faculty Information**

Title	Assoc. Prof. Physics
Instructor	Dr. Ann Schmiedekamp
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Office Hours	MWF 11:00-12:00 WF 12:00-1:00 by appointment
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Course Information

Credits	3
Course	001
Section	001
Location	112W
Times	10:00-10:50 am MWF
Start Date	Aug. 27, 2007

Required Text

Hester, Burstein, Blumenthal, Greeley, Smith, Voss, Wegner,
21st. Century Astronomy, second edition, ISBN-13: 978-0-393-92443-5

Course Description

Survey of Astronomy for non science majors

Course Objectives

Scientific literacy in the area of astronomy

Tentative Schedule

Aug. 27 Introduction to the Universe, Chapter 1 Why Learn Astronomy?
Aug. 29 Chapter 2 Patterns in the Sky
Aug 30 Chapter 2 Celestial Globe

Sept. 3 Holiday
Sept. 5 Chapter 2 Eclipses
Sept. 7 Chapter 3 History of Astronomy, Kepler's Laws

Sept. 10 Chapter 3 Newton's Laws
Sept. 12 Chapter 4 Light
Sept. 14 Chapter 4

Sept. 17 Chapter 5 Telescopes
Sept. 19 Chapter 5
Sept. 21 Chapter 6 History of the Solar System

Sept. 24 Chapter 6
Sept. 26 Exam 1
Sept. 28 Chapter 7 Terrestrial Planets

Oct. 1 Chapter 7
Oct. 3 Chapter 8 Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets
Oct. 5 Chapter 8

Oct. 8 Chapter 9 Giant Planets: Atmospheres, How giant planets differ from terrestrial
Oct. 10 Chapter 9
Oct. 12 Chapter 9 Giant Planets: Interiors and Magnetic Fields

Oct. 15 Chapter 9
Oct. 17 Chapter 10 Gravity is more than Kepler's laws; Tidal effects on Earth-Moon
Oct. 19 Chapter 10 Tidal effects elsewhere in the solar system; multiple body systems

Oct. 22 Exam 2
Oct. 24 Chapter 11 Planetary Moons and Rings

Oct. 29 Chapter 11 Galilean Moons and Saturnian Moons
Oct. 31 Chapter 11 Dwarf planets
Nov. 2 Chapter 12 Asteroids, Meteorites, Comets

Nov. 5 Chapter 12
Nov. 7 Chapter 12
Nov. 9 Chapter 13 Taking Measure of Stars, Binary Stars

Nov. 12 Chapter 13 HR diagram
Nov. 14 Chapter 14 Sun
Nov. 16 Chapter 14

Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 26 Exam 3
Nov. 28 Chapter 16 Low Mass Star Evolution
Nov. 30 Chapter 16 White Dwarfs

Dec. 3 Chapter 17 High Mass Stars, Supernovae
Dec. 5 Chapter 17 Neutron stars, black holes
Dec. 7 Chapter 18 Galaxies

Dec. 10 Chapter 18 Active Galactic Nuclei
Dec. 12 Chapter 19 The Milky Way
Dec. 14 Chapter 20 Our Expanding Universe

Dec. 19 Wednesday Final Exam 8:30-10:20 am

Course Requirements

Internet Access

Course Prerequisites

None

Grading Policy

Hour Exam 1 25%

Hour Exam 2 25%

Hour Exam 3 25%

The lowest of the three hour exams will be dropped but there are no make-ups for the hour exams. If a student is absent, the missed exam will be the dropped grade.

Daily assignments and quizzes 25% Included in this grade are pop quizzes and assignments both during and outside of class. There are no makeups for pop quizzes.

The equivalent of two pop quizzes will be subtracted from the grade total to accommodate unavoidable absences. Assignments turned in late will cost the student one point per day.

Final exam 25%. The final exam may not be dropped and it will be comprehensive. If a student has a serious reason for missing the final exam, documentation must be provided and the professor must be contacted on or before the date of the final exam in order to arrange an alternate exam. Although all hour exams and the final will be mostly multiple choice format, a make-up final exam will be mostly essay questions. No electronic devices, including calculators will be allowed during exams and quizzes.

Grade scale:

A 90-100%

A- 88-89%

B+ 85-87%

B 80-84%

B- 77-79%

C+ 74-76%

C 65-73%

D 58-64%

F 0-57%

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students at Penn State University. Please consult the Abington College Academic Integrity Policy for explanation of what is considered a violation.

<http://www.abington.psu.edu/psasite/cs/shared/Registrar/academicintegritypolicy.html>

Examination Policy

All exams are closed book. The lowest grade of the three hour exams will be dropped. No makeups will be scheduled for the hour exams. If a student is absent for the exam, it will be the exam that is dropped.

The final exam grade may not be dropped. If a student has a serious reason for missing the final exam, documentation must be provided and the professor should be contacted on or before the date of the final exam or the student will not be permitted to take an alternate final exam. No electronic devices, including calculators, will be allowed during exams and quizzes.

Disability Access Statement

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have a question about disability services, please contact Anne Prior, Room 315 Sutherland, 215-881-7537.

Additional Information

Respect for a proper academic climate during class is expected of all students. Please turn off cell phones before entering the classroom to avoid disruption.

Free peer and professional tutoring and study skill coaching are available at the Learning Center (Room 315 Sutherland, 215-881-7538). Students striving for an "A" and students struggling for a "C" agree that they benefit from tutoring sessions. To find out how the Learning Center can help you, call or visit Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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