

[Print this page](#)ASTRO 010 , Section 001: ASTRO UNIVERSE

**Faculty Information**

Title	Assoc. Prof. Physics
Instructor	Dr. Ann Schmiedekamp
Office Phone	215-881-7572
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Office Address	217 Woodland (old room 214 W)
Office Hours	MWF 12:00-1:00 PM Wed. 3:00-4:00 PM Thurs. 3:00-4:00 PM and by appointment
E-mail	ams@psu.edu
Homepage	http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/a/m/ams/

Course Information

Credits	2
Course	010
Section	001
Location	345 W
Times	4-5:50 pm Thursday
Section/Lab Times	Astro 11 is the lab associated with this course.
Start Date	Jan 17, 2008

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

Jan. 17 Introduction to the Universe, Chapter 1 Why Learn Astronomy? Patterns in the Sky

Chapter 2 Celestial Globe
Eclipses, History of Astronomy, Kepler's Laws

Jan. 24 Chapter 3 Newton's Laws
Chapter 4 Light

Jan. 31 Chapter 5 Telescopes
Chapter 6 History of the Solar System

Feb. 7 Chapter 7 Terrestrial Planets

Feb 14 Chapter 8 Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets

Feb. 21 Chapter 9 Giant Planets: Atmospheres, How giant planets differ from
terrestrial
Giant Planets: Interiors and Magnetic Fields

Feb. 28 Chapter 10 Gravity is more than Kepler's laws; Tidal effects on Earth-Moon
Tidal effects elsewhere in the solar system; multiple body systems
Chapter 11 Planetary Moons and Rings

Mar. 6 Midterm Exam

Spring Break

Mar. 20 Chapter 11 Galilean Moons and Saturnian Moons
Dwarf planets
Chapter 12 Asteroids, Meteorites, Comets

Mar. 27 Chapter 13 Taking Measure of Stars, Binary Stars
HR diagram

Apr. 3 Chapter 14 Sun

Apr. 10 Chapter 16 Low Mass Star Evolution
White Dwarfs

Apr 17 Chapter 17 High Mass Stars, Supernovae
Neutron stars, black holes

Apr. 24 Chapter 18 Galaxies
Active Galactic Nuclei

May 1 Chapter 19 The Milky Way
Chapter 20 Our Expanding Universe

May 7 Wednesday Final Exam 10:40-12:30 PM

Course Requirements

Internet Access

Course Prerequisites

None

Grading Policy

Midterm Exam 30%
Daily assignments and quizzes 30% Included in this grade are pop quizzes and
assignments both during and outside of class. Assignments turned in late will cost the

student one point per day.

Final exam 40%. The final exam may not be dropped and it will be comprehensive.

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%

Attendance Policy

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.

If a student has a serious reason for missing an 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.

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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