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PHYSICS 140 - INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

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WebCT is [here](#)

Welcome to the online version of Physics 140 - Introduction to Astronomy. As time progresses, the notes may be altered (as new information becomes available) so developing webpages will be an ongoing project. Of course I will strive to post pages as rapidly as possible, but please be patient.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

TEXT: ASTRONOMY TODAY, CHAISSON AND McMILLAN, 4TH EDITION.

The course assumes no prior science background, though if you've had previous courses, that's certainly o.k. too! Being a survey course, math will be held to a minimum, but will be used when necessary. The CD that accompanies the book won't be used in the course per se, however I encourage you to make use of it. The animations are great!

ASSIGNMENTS:

At the beginning of each chapter, you will be assigned 10 questions taken from the Review And Discussion section at the chapter's end as well as 2 Problems to be completed as soon as possible. Each homework assignment will be worth 20 points and we'll have 12 assignments for a maximum of 240 points.

TESTS:

There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and will cover about 4 chapters, corresponding to each PART (see Brief Contents) of the book. There may be exceptions; for example, exam 2 covers the Solar System (planets) and the information is found in various chapters. The final exam is NOT comprehensive.

GRADES:

The homework assignments count for 60% of your grade while the exams make up the remaining 40%. The final grade is then determined by the formula: $\text{grade} = 60 \times (\text{sum of homeworks})/240 + 40 \times (\text{sum of tests})/300$. From there, the letter grade is determined by

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 60 - 69 = D
- 0 - 59 = F

Tentative Schedule:

Chapter 1 - Charting the Heavens

Chapter 2 - The Copernican Revolution

Chapter 3 - Radiation

Chapter 4 - Spectroscopy

EXAM 1

Chapter 6 - The Solar System

Chapter 7 - Earth

The Inner Planets - material taken from Chapters 8,9,10

The Outer Planets - material taken from Chapters 11,12,13

EXAM 2

Chapter 17 - Measuring the Stars

Chapter 19 - Star Formation

Chapter 20 - Stellar Evolution

Chapter 21 - Stellar Explosions

EXAM 3

Now on to the lecture notes!

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