ASTRONOMY 100: Unveiling the Universe, sections 8-10

Fall 2018  Course Schedule  Syllabus: uwsp.edu/physastr/Documents/kmenning/Astr100.pdf
Desire2Learn: uwsp.edu/d2l/

Instructor: Dr. Ken Menningen
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e-mail: Ken.Menningen@uwsp.edu

Office hours: M  T  W  R  F
9:00am - 11:00am
1:00pm - 2:00pm
2:00pm - 3:00pm
By appointment

Course Prerequisites: None.

Required text: The Essential Cosmic Perspective, Bennett et al., 7th edition (available at Text Rental)

Other required materials: Scientific calculator (graphing capability is not necessary), $11 lab manual (buy at the University Store), and a TurningPoint QT Device (“clicker”) or an enabled mobile device. Use of either one requires a $13 access code (University Store).

Course Objectives: Unveiling the Universe presents the fundamental concepts required for an understanding of planetary and galactic astronomy. Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

• Understand the fundamental concepts regarding the solar system, stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies.
• Use simple math to explain measurements and make predictions.
• Become informed about the basic physical features of the Earth and the night sky.

Unveiling the Universe satisfies the Natural Sciences requirement of the UWSP General Education Program. Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

• Explain major concepts, methods, or theories used in the natural sciences to investigate the physical world.
• Interpret information, solve problems, and make decisions by applying natural science concepts, methods, and quantitative techniques.
• Describe the relevance of aspects of the natural sciences to your life and society.

Attendance: Lecture attendance is required only for the midterm examinations, but it is a disadvantage to miss any lectures because the lectures, demonstrations, and in-class activities will greatly enhance your ability to understand the material. Attendance to the labs is not required, but you cannot pass the course if your lab score is below 60%. If you are ill, please contact me before class to make arrangements. Otherwise, late assignments are not accepted. Late exams are not allowed, but in special cases, and with my permission, you may take an exam early.

Responsibilities: The grade you earn in this course will be a measure of how well you have learned astronomy. However, you will have learned astronomy in the context of a community, and that means you have a responsibility to make a positive contribution to that community, by both making an honest effort to participate in class activities and by refraining from activities that will interfere with your neighbor’s ability to learn. You are expected to attend class regularly, participate respectfully and with integrity, and to remain on task during class periods. Likewise, you are expected to refrain from using any electronic device during class periods. Not only does text messaging and web browsing during class prevent you from listening and learning, it also distracts your neighbor and interferes with their learning. If a true emergency has arisen, please quietly excuse yourself from the room before attending to the matter. You are expected to refrain from talking at the same time as the instructor, eating or drinking noisily, using e-cigarettes, or any other behavior that might distract your fellow student and interfere with learning.
Grading policy: The grade you earn in this class will be based upon the five assignment types listed below. A grading scale is also given for your reference. Grades are not curved, encouraging you to work together, but I expect each student to hand in their own work. Your lowest lab, homework, and weekly in-class scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>A− → A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B− → B → B+</td>
<td>75 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C− → C → C+</td>
<td>60 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D → D+</td>
<td>50 – 59</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
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In-class work: During nearly every lecture I will present some response questions for which you may earn points by using the “Turning Point Cloud” system. Purchase a Turning Technologies code from the bookstore to earn bonus points on the questions. (Participation points can also be earned by submitting responses on paper.) You may use your own device (a laptop, tablet, or smartphone) or check out a clicker from the UWSP IT Service Desk free of charge (bring your UWSP student ID). You will need to create a Turning Technologies account (use your UWSP email address) in order to register your device to the class. You can find help with Turning Point Cloud here.

Labs: Please purchase a lab manual from University Store for $11. The labs are designed to illustrate and expand upon the topics we cover in the lecture portion of the course, and provide valuable hands-on experiences. You must earn at least a 60% in the laboratory portion of the course to pass the entire course. The lab grades will be determined from a combination of the pre-lab assignments and the lab exercise sheets that you hand in.

Homework: The chapter assignments can be handed in using the Desire2Learn (D2L) system that allows multiple submissions and gives instant feedback but will not allow late entries. There may also be questions about occasional news articles that I will ask you to read. To avoid a zero for late homework assignments you must warn me by phone or email before they are due and make special arrangements. If you are too ill to complete the assignment, please see a doctor, and have the doctor write a note. You should not believe that the homework problems are sufficient practice for the exam. Instead I recommend that you answer at least five additional questions for each chapter in the text, and review the in-class questions that are posted on the internet. There will be one observatory visit that is due at the end of the semester (see separate sheet).

Exams: Midterm exams are scheduled to occur on October 10, November 7, and December 5. These dates may change but it's not likely. The comprehensive final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 20, at 8:00 am. Cell phones and tablets of any kind are strictly banned from examination periods. Late exams are not allowed, but in special cases, and with my permission, you may take an exam early.

Tentative Course Schedule: [For a detailed course schedule with links to lecture content, see the online course schedule at http://www4.uwsp.edu/physastr/kmenning/Astr100/100Schedule.htm]

Community Rights & Responsibilities:

Students with special needs should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center during the first two weeks of the semester in order to request accommodation. An Exam Accommodation Request Form is available online. Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor about the conflict within the first three weeks of class. Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity for their work in this course. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding special accommodations, misconduct, religious beliefs accommodation, discrimination and absence for university sponsored events. (For details please refer to the Community Rights & Responsibilities document and the Student Conduct Process page, including the Academic Integrity document.)