



Professor

The teacher for this class is Dr. Ann Marie Cody.

Email: codyannmarie@fhda.edu

Office hours: Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm online via zoom.

Class meetings

This class will be conducted in “hybrid” format, with all material and meetings taking place online. Face-to-face meetings via zoom are scheduled from 1:30-2:20pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. You must log in to De Anza's Canvas system to access the course material. E-mail the professor for further details on how to do this.

Textbook

The textbook for this class is available for free online at:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy>

I recommend downloading the PDF version and using a PDF-reader program to read it, such as the free Adobe Reader.

Goals this Quarter

You'll be learning a lot about what planetary systems are and how they work this quarter. You'll also learn a lot about how a large college course like this works. Here are some specific things I want to help you do; I hope that doing these things enables you to become a more scientifically aware citizen, and get you excited about science no matter what your eventual path in life!

1. Make your own judgments about how the exploration of space might be of benefit to society. Many people often question why we explore the universe and study the Earth from space. In this course, you'll learn more about how these endeavors might benefit us “on the ground”.
2. Compare and contrast the planets (and other objects) in our solar system, and in other solar systems, so as to understand why they turned out the way they did. We call this *comparative planetology*, and it's one of the main goals of the astronomers who study solar systems – i.e. the planets and other objects that orbit around stars.
3. Evaluate things that you read, hear, or see in the news about astronomy. We are all exposed to many sources of information (internet, TV, etc...) and there's a method for evaluating the things these sources tell us about the world and the universe – it's called the *scientific method*.

There's a technical name for those goals I described above – they're called the:

Student Learning Outcomes

Here's the official list... but they're basically the same things I listed under "Our Goals This Quarter":

- Appraise the benefits to society of planetary research and exploration.
- Compare and contrast the development of planetary systems and of the major planet types, including those factors that have led to Earth's unique characteristics.
- Evaluate astronomical news items or theories concerning solar system astronomy based upon the scientific method.

GRADING

Step 1:

Participate fully in the class (e.g., answer questions in assigned discussions and quizzes) to obtain 100 pts.

You take three (3) midterm exams and a final exam.

Test 1 200 pts

Test 2 200 pts

Test 3 200 pts

FINAL EXAM 300 pts

Optional 25 pts
extra credit
assignment

Step 2:

I drop the lowest midterm exam.

-200 pts = **400 pts of midterms**

There's no way I'm going to drop **the final**... I add that in to the total midterm and participation points.

Step 3:

I calculate the final grade.

Your final percentage =

The points you earned, after dropping lowest scores as described at left

DIVIDED BY...

800 total points

I then round your final percentage to the nearest whole percent, and use the following grading scale:

89-100 A
79-88 B
68-78 C
57-67 D
<57 F

Notes:

1. A percentage like 88.7% rounds to 89, so it's an A.
2. If something causes you to miss a test or quiz, that will be the one you drop.
3. I'm afraid my schedule won't allow me to give you a final at a different time in order to fit your vacation. You'll need to plan around the final – you may want to tell family members about this before they buy non-refundable plane tickets.

Astronomy 4 Class Rules and Guidelines

During the first few weeks of class, I will collect state-mandated class attendance data by assessing participation in our online system.

ADDING THE CLASS:

If you add the class, make sure that your add code has worked, and that you have been properly added to the class. If not, it is your responsibility to check with the Admissions/Records office to find out how this can be corrected. After the end of Week 2, the College CANNOT process a late add, and you could find yourself not enrolled and not receiving a grade for the course, if you're not registered.

DROPPING THE CLASS:

I would like to see everyone complete the course, earn a good grade, and become excited about science. However, the realities of life sometimes get in the way.

You should assess your situation realistically throughout the quarter.

If you decide to drop the class, you must do so by the final date to drop with a "W", or you risk receiving an "F" if you haven't earned enough points to pass the class.

Also – and this is very important – ASKING FOR AN INCOMPLETE GRADE WILL NOT WORK AS A WAY AROUND THE FINAL DROP DATE! I can only assign an Incomplete in a few, very specific situations. If it's after Week 8, and you realize you should have dropped, and someone in Counseling or Admissions and Records tells you to ask me for an Incomplete, it is VERY UNLIKELY that the situation will actually warrant one! "I" grades cannot be given for missing a large fraction of the work in the course.

TESTS:

- You will be given a fixed amount of time to answer a series of questions online.
- No collaboration with classmates is allowed.
- Use of artificial intelligence/chatbots to complete exam questions is also not allowed.
- You may, however, use your notes and book on exams.

NOTICE: Cheating on any exam or project is grounds for a failing grade in the class and a permanent note to a student's file. "Cheating" is defined (in this course) to be an effort by a student to obtain a grade by any means other than demonstration of that student's individual achievement in mastering the class material and/or fulfilling terms of a project.

Further grounds for expulsion from the class include any activity that interferes with others' ability to benefit from the class.

Important: Dates of TESTS are fixed, but the lecture topics (shown in *italics*) are tentative.
 Each test covers the material since the last test. Final Exam is comprehensive – it covers the whole quarter.
 Reading assignments will be noted in the class's Canvas system.

ASTRONOMY 4 Lecture Schedule, Spring 2023 Section 12Z

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
Wk 1	Apr	10 Course overview	11 Scientific method	12 Distances in the Solar System	13 Orienting ourselves on the night sky	14 Stars and their motions on the night sky	15
Wk 2	Apr	17 Apparent star motion, part II	18 Annual motion of the stars and Sun	19 Ancient and cultural astronomy	20 Astrology and astronomy	21 Copernicus, Tycho, and Galileo: A Sun-centered model	22 Last day to drop w/out W
Wk 3	Apr	24 Kepler's and Newton's laws	25 Gravity: A Universal Force	26 Orbits	27 TEST 1	28 Tides	29
Wk 4	Apr	1 What REALLY causes the seasons?	2 Eclipses	3 The phases of the moon	4 Introduction to light	5 The electro-magnetic spectrum	6
Wk 5	May	8 Spectroscopy and atoms	9 Telescopes on Earth and in space	10 The Doppler effect	11 TEST 2	12 Overview of the solar system	13
Wk 6	May	15 Origin of the solar system	16 Planetary surfaces	17 Earth's moon	18 Venus	19 Mercury	20
Wk 7	May	22 Earth: Interior and surface	23 Earth: Atmosphere and magnetic field	24 The greenhouse effect on Earth	25 Mars: the Red Planet	26 Missions to Mars	27
Wk 8	May/ Jun	29 HOLIDAY	30 The Giant Planets	31 Moons of the solar system	1 TEST 3	2 Planetary rings Last Drop Day	3
Wk 9	Jun	5 Titan, Triton, and Pluto	6 Exoplanets: detection I	7 Exoplanets: detection II	8 Exoplanets: discoveries	9 Exoplanets: habitability	10
Wk 10	Jun	12 The search for life in the universe	13 Our Sun: its structure and magnetic field	14 The Sun: How does it generate energy?	15 The future of our Solar System	16 Asteroids- failed planets	17
Wk 11	Jun	19 HOLIDAY	20 Comets	21 Asteroids: planetary defense	22 Meteors and Meteorites	23 Final exam review	24
Wk 12	Jun FINALS	26	27	28 FINAL EXAM DUE	29	30	1