



Syllabus

Contents

[Course Materials](#)

[Assignments](#)

[Exams](#)

[Grading](#)

What You Should Already Know

You should already have a working knowledge of the major components of the solar system. You should have good reading skills, as you will read some scientific data in this course. Your most important skill will be a good work ethic.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should have done the following:

1. Developed a basic knowledge of astronomy, both historical and observational.
2. Acquired an appreciation for astronomy and the night skies.
3. Learn how astronomers study the universe and exercise some of those skills yourself.

Course Materials

This course is self-contained. You do not need a separate astronomy book to complete the units.

Assignments

Self Checks

These are ungraded questions to help you check your mastery of the discussion material before completing graded assignments. Read each unit carefully. Pay attention to the objectives and vocabulary at the beginning of each unit. When you finish reading, complete the Self-Check questions and check your answers. Go back and review any questions you missed.

Unit Quizzes and Review Quizzes

Quizzes appear at the end of each unit and are a major component of your grade. Expect several questions from each lesson in the unit quiz. There are also two cumulative review assignments covering all of the concepts from the preceding units. The assignments consist of a series of multiple-choice questions about the discussion material in each unit.

Exams

Before you take the final exam, please review all of your unit quizzes carefully. Make sure you understand them *without* the help of the course content or notes. Once you feel confident with the material, then take the final exam.

Grading

Each unit quiz is worth 10 percent of your final grade. This is a total of 60 percent of your grade from assignments. After units 3 and 6 are review quizzes, which are each worth 5 percent of your grade. Below is a chart showing how much each assignment is worth.

Unit/Assignment Type	Percentage of Final Grade
Unit 1 Quiz	10%
Unit 2 Quiz	10%
Unit 3 Quiz	10%
Review Quiz 1	5%
Unit 4 Quiz	10%
Unit 5 Quiz	10%
Unit 6 Quiz	10%

Unit/Assignment Type	Percentage of Final Grade
Review Quiz 2	5%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100 -93
A-	92 -90
B+	89 -87
B	86 -83
B-	82 -80
C+	79 -77
C	76 -73
C-	72 -70
D+	69 -67
D	66 -63
D-	62 -60
E (fail)	59 or below