Descriptive Astronomy 2010
Syllabus - Pruneau - FALL 2008
Section 01 - WEB COURSE
Section 02 - MW12:50PM, DeRoy

Prerequisites: none

Intended audience:
- General audience including science and non-science majors.
- Minimal knowledge of mathematics (elementary algebra) and sciences.
- Ideal for Students seeking to satisfy their GEN-ED Science requirement.
- Must have access to a computer and be familiar to browser usage.
- Must have email access.
- Must be familiar with the WAYNE STATE BLACKBOARD system.

Synopsis:

Course Format:
Section 01 of this course is a WEB Course, with no in-class lectures. Section 02 is a regular in-class course. The two sections are taught by the same instructor, have the same material content, and web site. The course material/content is comprised of reading material from the course textbook (see below) and online material delivered through BLACKBOARD and the Instructor’s course website. Online material includes power point lectures, assignments, study guides, self-tests. Exams will be taken in-class. See schedule on instructor’s website, and BLACKBOARD for date, time, and location of the exams, and makeups.

Instructor/Lecturer:
Prof. Claude A Pruneau,
✦ E-Mail: pruneau@physics.wayne.edu
✦ Website: http://rhig.physics.wayne.edu/~pruneau/
✦ Office phone: 313 577 1813, FAX: 313 577 3932
✦ Office: Room 322, Physics Building, Wayne State University
✦ If I cannot be reached at my office, try leaving a message for me at 313 577 2750.
✦ Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. Also feel free to contact me in class, before, or after lectures.
Course Web Site:
- Weekly reading assignments and study unit objectives
- Self-tests questions, self-test answers
- Link to lecture notes
- Lexicon/glossary

Blackboard System (http://blackboard.wayne.edu)
- Blackboard is used for course announcements, online quizzes, and general information related to the course. It will also be used to submit course work (essay).
- If you are not familiar with Blackboard, obtain your login ID, and password as soon as possible and immediately test to your ability to log on, navigate, and understand Blackboard's different features.
- Weekly quizzes will be taken within Blackboard.

Course ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Course related general announcements will be carried out through the Blackboard system, and by email.
- Logon the BLACKBOARD website and read your email on a regular basis (e.g. at least every other day) to stay up-to-date with class information.
- Make sure your University E-MAIL BOX is NOT FULL.

Lectures:
Section 01 (WEB Course): No in-class lecture for students registered in this section.
Section 02 (Regular Course), Ref#12135), Monday and Wednesday, 12:50PM - 2:40 PM, Room 46, DeRoy auditorium (downstairs). Students of the WEB Section (Sect 01) are welcomed to attend lectures scheduled for Section 02 on a per need basis.

Textbook:
- Pathways to Astronomy, by Schneider and Arny, McGrawHill Publisher, ISBN-13 978-0-7-326382-3, available for purchase at Barnes and Nobles on campus, as well as at other ONLINE vendors.
- THE TEXTBOOK IS REQUIRED.
- Few copies are in reserve at the Adamani Library.
- Consider buying a used copy from past students or resellers.
- The textbook consists of 84 study units. Each study unit discusses a specific topic. Units are short and easy to read.
- Not all, but a large fraction of the study units will be covered in this course.
- It is imperative you read the textbook on a regular basis and do not wait till the last minute to learn the material.
- IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET A COPY OF THE TEXTBOOK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN READ AND LEARN THE MATERIAL NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE WEEKLY QUIZZES.
Reading Assignments:
✦ Reading Assignments are given weekly
✦ Do read and prepare for the lectures and to answer weekly quizzes (see below).
✦ Reading material include the textbook units, and the lecture notes posted on the course website.
✦ See the course website: http://ast2010.physics.wayne.edu for weekly reading assignments. Use pull down menu to select the relevant week index and access the reading assignment.

Self-Study Tests (Self-Tests)
✦ Self-test questions are available online on the course website: http://ast2010.physics.wayne.edu for each study unit.
✦ The self-tests are provided to help you identify the material to read, focus on, understand, and remember.
✦ You do NOT submit your answers to the self-test questions. You will not be graded on the self-tests.
✦ Answers to the self-test questions will posted by your instructor few days before the exams on the course website.

Weekly Quizzes:
✦ Weekly quizzes are given ONLINE using the Blackboard automated grading system.
✦ Quizzes can be taken from home, campus, or anywhere you have access to a computer equipped with a browser, and connected to the internet.
✦ Each quiz consists of a few multiple choice questions - typically 4 to 7.
✦ You will have typically 10 days to complete each online quiz.
✦ There will be one quiz per week.
✦ The material covered on quizzes is the material covered in lectures (Sect 02) during the same week.
✦ No partial credit for ONLINE quizzes.
✦ No makeup for ONLINE quizzes.
✦ Do not wait till the last minute to complete a quiz. Quizzes CANNOT be taken after their due date and time.
✦ Do not forget to press/click the SUBMIT button. Note that once the SUBMIT button is clicked you answer is submitted and cannot be changed. So think twice before clicking but do not forget to click...
✦ Quiz #0 will be a practice quiz in order for all students to familiarize themselves with the Blackboard system. You get 10 points just for doing it.
✦ Lowest quiz score (excluding quiz #0) will be dropped for the calculation of your final grade.

Exams:
Partial Exams
✦ There will be three partial exams
✦ Each partial exam will consist of roughly 50 multiple choice questions.
✦ Partial exams will be taken at
  ✦ Sect 01 WEB Course : Specially allocated times/location to be announced.
  ✦ Sect 02 : Regular lecture times in the regular lecture hall/class room.
Material covered on each exam will be announced in class, by email, through the Blackboard system, and on the course website. See website for list of units covered on each exam.

Exam Makeup times, will be scheduled, there will be ONLY one makeup time for each of the exam. If you miss both the nominal and makeup exam, your grade will be ZERO for that exam.

See event schedule ONLINE for date and times of exams and make-ups.

You will NOT be allowed to take an exam if you arriving more than fifteen minutes late.

Final Exam

All above rules apply.

Cumulative exam including all the material covered during the semester.

Final will be taken during the University Final's week at a date and time specified by the University. See event schedule.

The final exam will consist of roughly 100 multiple questions.

Important Note:

If you miss both the nominal, and makeup times of the final exam, your grade will be zero.

If you miss two or more exams, your course final grade will automatically be “F”.

ESSAY:

You are required to write a 5 to 7 pages (double interline) essay on a topic or your choice.

See a list of allowed (suggested) and not allowed topics, requirements, grading criteria at: http://ast2010.physics.wayne.edu/Essay.pdf.

An example of the required format and style is available at http://ast2010.physics.wayne.edu

No cut and paste allowed except for SHORT citations, and figures.

See ONLINE event schedule for submission date.

Essay to be submitted only as an electronic file via the Blackboard Drop box of this course. Familiarize yourself with the location of the Drop box, and the submission procedure ahead of time.

No essay accepted past the DUE DATE. NO EXCEPTION. Get started early...

Essay to be submitted as Microsoft WORD, APPLE PAGES, POSTSCRIPT, or PDF documents. Other formats will not be accepted.

Planetarium Visit - Extra Credit

A visit to the College of Science and Liberal Arts planetarium will be organized.

Students who attend will be given extra-credit. Note: the extra credit planetarium show is different than the show included the lab 1 credit course.

The planetarium has a limited/small number of seats.

Many presentations will therefore be scheduled.

Date and time of the presentations will be posted by your instructor on the course website.

Other Extra-Credit Work

Extra credit work will be allowed and scheduled under very special circumstances only.

The extra credit work will consist of a 10 page long (double interline) essay on a topic chosen by your instructor.
Student e-Mails:
❖ Look for announcements on BLACKBOARD, or read your email before sending e-mails to your instructor about quizzes due dates, exam dates, etc.
❖ Please follow proper etiquette in your emails... Please address your instructor as “Professor Pruneau” or “Mr. Pruneau”. Rude or improper emails will not be answered...
❖ Be patient - there are many students in this class...

Event Schedule
Posted on BLACKBOARD and Instructor’s website.
Performance Evaluation

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following items:

Home-works/Blackboad Quizzes: 40%
Three partial exams: 30% - Each partial counts for 10%
Final exam: 20%
Essay: 10% - Essays submitted after due date will lose 0.5% (of final grade) per day.

Total 100%

Planetarium Extra Credit: 2.5%
Other extra credit work: Maximum of 5%. (for very special circumstances ONLY)

Final grades letters will be attributed according to the following table.

A 95 - 100 %
A- 90 - 94
B+ 85 - 89
B 80 - 84
B- 75 - 79
C+ 70 - 74
C 65 - 69
C- 60 - 64
D+ 50 - 59
D- <50
F if two or more exams are missing or if one exam and the essay are missing.

Notes:
✦ All quizzes, partial and final exams, as well as essay scores will be posted in the Blackboard Grade book.
✦ Final grades will be posted in pipeline.

Laboratory:
✦ The laboratory is a separate course (AST2011) - graded separately/independently - with a different instructor.
✦ The laboratory is required for all students taking Astronomy 2010+2011 for 4+1=5 credits.
✦ The astronomy 2010 laboratory manual must be purchased by those registered for Astronomy 2010+2011 for 4+1=5 credits.
✦ While the lab is not required for all programs, it is highly recommended.

Observation of the Sky
✦ Three evenings of observation are scheduled during the semester.
✦ Observations are carried on the roof of the Physics building during clear nights.
✦ It is extremely valuable to study the manual prior to coming to the laboratory.
✦ Laboratory reports are due at the start of the following week lab.
✦ For further details, please inquire with Dr. Scott Payson at 313-577-3280
Important Notes:
✦ There is a large amount of material in this class.
✦ It is absolutely critical you do not wait till the last minute to prepare for the exams or to write the essay.
✦ Read the chapters in the textbook weekly.
✦ Solve the quiz questions/problems weekly.
✦ Try all self-test questions.

Other textbooks of interest
Fraknoi, Morrison, and Wolff: Voyages Through the Universe; Saunders, 2000 Edition

Attention Students with Disabilities
If you have a physical or mental impairment that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete the requirements for this course, please contact Education Accessibility Services in Room 583 of the Student Center Building to discuss appropriate accommodations on a confidential basis. Educational Accessibility Services can be reached by telephone at 313 577 1851.