

Astronomy 101 — Sections AA (8:30) and AC (9:30) Spring 2006¹

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Course web page: <http://www.astro.washington.edu/astro101/>
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Office Hours: Directions to my office are on the other side.
Thursday 2:30 – 3:20 and Friday 11:30 – 12:20 in my office, PAB B329, or by appointment

Class Location:

On Tuesdays we are in PAA A216 and on Thursdays we are in PAA A210.

Description:

Section will consist of hands-on activities and informal lecture and discussion. The goal is to provide you with some practical experience in astronomy and a setting for asking questions and interacting with your classmates. There will be labs, tutorials, quizzes, review, and occasional lectures. You are encouraged to ask questions about anything (including topics from lecture). If you are confused about something, others probably are, too. If you are uncomfortable asking a question in class, though, you may send me an email about it. I will either address the question in the next section or encourage you to meet with me during office hours. The course message board is also a good resource for asking questions.

Policies:

- The material for this class consists of a Course Pack and the textbook *Stars & Galaxies: The Cosmic Perspective* by Bennett et al. (fourth edition). Both can be purchased in the bookstore (you may also download the Course Pack from the class web page). You are responsible for bringing the *Class Notebook* to section. *Read the labs before coming to section.* You are also encouraged to bring a calculator and your textbook to class.
- In this class, we will be using the Mastering Astronomy website: <http://www.masteringastronomy.com/>. Access to it comes with new textbooks or may be purchased for \$36 from the website.
- Homework/labs are typically due one week after they have been assigned, but I will always give you the specific dates. Homework is to be collected at the beginning of section or placed in my mailbox by 5:00 pm on the due date. If you are sick or absent on the day the homework is due or for some other reason can't get the lab in on time, get in touch with me *by 5:00 that day* and I'll see what I can do about extending the deadline for you. In all other cases, though, late labs/homework will *not* be accepted. It is better to turn in an unfinished assignment and get partial credit than for you to get no credit because it was late.
- If you have a disagreement with my grading on an assignment, return the graded assignment to me with a note attached explaining your issue. I will look it over and consider your argument. The sooner the assignment is given to me, the more open my mind will be to revising your grade.
- I will occasionally give an in class quiz over recent material. These are intended as practice for you and feedback for me. If you miss a quiz day, email me and I will send you the quiz.
- Collaboration with other students is strongly encouraged; copying from other students is unacceptable. You are responsible for your own work. That is, all homework must be written up in your own

¹Much thanks to Amy Kimball for providing the format for this syllabus.

words, and you must be ready to defend your answers. If you and another student do work together on an assignment, please write a note to that effect on your paper. Acknowledging others is a good habit to get into.

- Of your overall grade, 50% will be from section, 20% from the midterm and 30% from the final. About 90% of your section grade will be labs and homeworks from the course pack and *Mastering Astronomy*. Completing and turning in these will put you well on your way to doing well in class. When grading labs and homeworks, I will use the same hard grading scale as Eric Agol (97% guarantees a 4.0, 82% a 3.0, 70% a 2.0 etc). Any extra work assigned just by me and turned into section (for instance, quizzes) will be worth about 10% of your grade and will be curved.

There is no extra credit in this class. I may, however, raise the grade of a student based on his or her participation in class. If you are worried about your grade, start asking and answering questions in class.

- If you would like to request special accommodations for a disability, please contact Eric Agol or myself.

Best of luck and may you have a stellar term.

Directions

Here are basic directions to my office and mailbox. If all else fails, just go to the third floor of the Physics/Astronomy building and ask someone to direct you. Astronomers are helpful and friendly!

How to Find Charlotte's Office:

- Start at the peanut-looking sculpture in the courtyard outside the building our classes are in. Face the tallest of the physics buildings.
- Enter the long, squat building to your right through the set of doors to the left of the three rows of bike racks.
- Just inside the doors is an elevator to your left. Take it to the third floor.
- Upon exiting the elevator on the third floor you'll find a set of double doors to your immediate right. Go through them and turn right.
- Walk down the long hallway until you come to my office. It is on the left side of the hall. If all goes well, my name may even be by the door by then.

How to Find Charlotte's Mailbox:

- Start at the peanut-looking sculpture in the courtyard outside the building our classes are in. Face the tallest of the Physics buildings.
- Walk straight ahead to enter through the main doors of the tallest building.
- The main elevators are just inside. Take them to the third floor.
- When you exit the elevator, turn left. The mailbox room is through the double doors and to the right.
- Graduate student mailboxes are toward the end. Mine is labeled Christensen, C.
- The doors are usually locked at 5pm. Turn your work in before then!