

Astronomy 101 Section

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Office Hours: T/TH 10:30 – 11:30 AM
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Class Webpage: <http://www.astro.washington.edu/mrdavis/astr101/>

Introduction: Astronomy is an exciting and unique field of science that dates back thousands of years. Astronomers set the calendars of their people's lives, predicting the seasons and providing astrological predictions. Almost every civilization has had its astronomers/astrologers, from the Celts who built Stonehenge, to ancient Egyptians and their carefully aligned pyramids, to Greeks and Mayans, and through the millennia to present day astronomers the world over who are seeking to unravel the mysteries of the cosmos. I welcome you to what will hopefully be a fun and informative peek inside the methods and discoveries of astronomy.

Purpose: The purpose of the Astronomy 101 Section is to augment the material learned in lecture through group discussions and exercises. As a part of this we may discuss confusing topics from lecture or reading, so come armed with your questions!

Exercises: We will do approximately six exercises throughout the quarter which will be turned in and graded. These exercises count towards your overall grade in Astr 101. Exercises are to be completed and turned in at the beginning of section one week after they are started. Late assignments will not be accepted. Please show all of your work on these exercises. In many questions I will not be looking just for a numeric or specific answer but rather evidence of the thought process that led you to your answer. Science is about observation and interpretation and requires careful thought! I am more interested in your ability to reason than in your ability to use a calculator.

Quizzes: In order to prepare you for test in lecture I will occasionally give short quizzes in section. These quizzes will be made of multiple choice questions from Dr. Larson's previous exams and will be collected and graded.

Academic Honesty: As in any class, it is important that you do your own work. However, do not let this stop you from working with your fellow students! I have found that in many classes my peers are one of my most useful resources. Refer to Dr. Larson's syllabus for further information on academic honesty and the consequences of cheating.

Other Policies: Be on time. Cell phones are not allowed in class. Make up classes are not allowed without prior arrangement. Late work will not be accepted without prior arrangement. Read the directions.