ASTRONOMY 1 – SYLLABUS – FALL 2013

Section Number 0130 Tu-Th 8:55 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Rains

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon Tu Th: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m
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TEXTBOOK Required: "Astro" by Backman/Seeds, 1st ed
ISBN 0-538-73804-9
Campus Bookstore: $86 new/$65 used
Chegg.com: Rental price: $21
Textbooks.com: $40
Price comparison web site:
http://www.CampusBooks4Less.com/prices/0470407352

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain the methods astronomers use to explore the natural phenomena of the universe, including observation, hypothesis development, and evaluation of evidence.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the historical development of key astronomical concepts such as the ever-unfolding discovery of our place in the universe, including the latest developments in planetology and cosmology.
3. Identify and evaluate the causes and possible solutions to problems of environmental concern such as global warming, resource conservation and pollution.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Addresses such questions as:
What is our place in the universe?
What kinds of things occupy the universe?
What am I actually seeing when I look up at the sky (moon, planets, stars, etc)?
What is it like on other planets?
Where did the universe come from? Where is it going?
Is there life elsewhere in the universe?
How do we know what we know?

COURSE OUTLINE: The course outline is the same as the table of contents of the textbook, "Astro".

GRADES: The final grade will be determined by:

Homework average:	20%	(Two of these will be dropped)
Lecture Quiz average:	20%	(Two of these will be dropped)
Test 1, Sept 18	20%	(The lowest test will be dropped)
Test 2, Oct. 11	20%	
Test 3, Nov. 13	20%	
Final Exam (Ch. 1-15) Dec 10 (10 am – 12 pm)	20%	

Grades and syllabus are posted on the online at http://www.lamission.edu/~rainsre

Homework: Homework is accepted only during the first 15 minutes of the class period on the day it is due. No late homework is accepted under any circumstances. However, the two lowest homework grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

A brief **Lecture Quiz** will be given during the last 10 minutes of each class meeting only. The quiz will cover the lecture and will allow open notes. Missed quizzes may not be made-up and will be recorded as zero. The two lowest Lecture Quiz grades, however, will be dropped at the end of the semester.

The three **tests** will take about one hour each. They are closed book, closed notes. No make-up tests will be given. However, the single lowest test grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. (Not including the final examination.) **The key to passing the one-hour-tests and the final exam is the Study Guide**, which can be found at http://www.lamission.edu/~rainsre .

The **final examination** is closed book, and will be comprehensive: it will cover the entire course. Hand-written notes will be allowed.

No early or late examinations or quizzes will be given under any circumstances. Please arrange your life accordingly.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Aug 27: Introduction
Aug 29: Chapter 1/2
Sept 3: Chapter 2
Sept. 5: Chapter 2/3
Sept 10: Chapter 3
Sept 12: Chapter 4
Sept 17: Chapter 5
Sept 19: **Test 1 Ch 1-5**
Sept 24: Chapter 6
Sept 26: Chapter 7
Oct 1: Chapter 8
Oct 3: Chapter 9
Oct 8: Chapter 10
Oct 10: **Test 2 Ch 6 - 10**
Oct 15: Chapter 11
Oct 17: Chapter 12-13.1 (except 12. 3)
Oct 22: Movie
Oct 24: Chapter 13 Earth
Oct 29: Chapter 13 Earth - Moon
Oct 31: Chapter 13 Moon
Nov 5: Chapter 13 Mercury and Venus
Nov 7: Chapter 13 Mars
Nov 12: **Test 3 Ch 11 – 13**
Nov 14: Chapter 14 Jupiter
Nov 19: Movie
Nov 21: Chapter 14 Saturn
Nov 26: Chapter 14 Uranus, Neptune, Kuiper Belt
Nov 28: Thanksgiving
Dec 3: Chapter 12.3 Asteroids and Comets
Dec 5: Chapter 15 Extraterrestrial Life
Dec 10: Final Exam

CELL PHONE POLICY: No cell phone activity of any kind, including text messaging, is allowed while class is in session.
MEDIA PLAYER POLICY: Please remove all ear buds and headphones upon entering the classroom.
ETHICS POLICY: Any student found to be cheating on any quiz or test will receive an immediate zero on that activity.
DATES listed on this syllabus may change. Each student is responsible for current class announcements, whether he/she is present in class or not.

Last Day to drop the class without a "W": Sept 8
Last Day to drop the class with a "W": Nov 17
NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to drop the class. After the final census date, the instructor is not responsible to exclude students who have become inactive.

You can get help from Learning Center Resources:

Facebook link:

http://www.facebook.com/lamcssc?v=info&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=156772824338146