

ABBREVIATED SYLLABUS: ASTRONOMY 1010, FALL 2009

ASTRONOMY OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Prof. Paul J. Wiita

Lecture Times and Place: TTh 1:00–2:15 PM; 200 General Classroom
Contacts: Rm. 715 One Park Place; 404-413-6022; wiita@chara.gsu.edu
Office Hours: TWTh 11:00 AM – noon, & **by appointment.**

Required Textbook: **The Cosmic Perspective**, 5th Edition, by J. Bennett, M. Donahue, N. Schneider, & M. Voit, Pearson/Addison Wesley (2008)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The **detailed syllabus** along with summaries of notes and links to assignments can be found at www.chara.gsu.edu/~wiita/teaching.html

Be familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty, section 1380 (pages 83–87) of the **Undergraduate Catalog**, which can be downloaded at: www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html .

Computers, mobile phones, etc. must be turned off while in class. Talking, eating, or otherwise disturbing others in class will not be tolerated.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings and in the lectures unless specifically told otherwise. You are strongly encouraged to ask questions before, during or after class and to attend some office hours.

There will be three one-hour exams. No more than 25% of any exam will be comprised of questions requiring mathematics.

The average student will do well in this course if (s)he devotes five to six hours a week (outside of lecture and lab) to reading the textbook, doing the web-based assignments and reviewing her or his notes.

GRADING:

Each of the three hour exams will count as 18% of your grade, and there will be no make-up exams or cumulative final; however, the lowest of the three grades will be dropped. Several pop quizzes will count for 4% of your grade, web-based assignments will comprise a total of 17%, and your lab work will count for the remaining 25%.

Assignments: Note that all assignments will involve the textbook website, **Mastering Astronomy**, at www.masteringastronomy.com where this course ID is MAWIITA1010F09. You should register at that site promptly, using the code from the Student Access Kit that should have come with your

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date(s)	Topic	Sections or Chapter(s)
Aug. 18	Introduction & The Nature of Science	Ch. 1, §3.4
Aug. 20, 25, 27	The Night Sky	2, S1
Sept. 1, 3, 8	Historical Astronomy to Kepler	3
Sept. 10, 15, 17	Motions, Gravity and Newton	4
Sept. 22	FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION	1–4, S1
Sept. 24, 29, Oct. 1	Light and Electromagnetic Radiation	5
Oct. 6, 8	Telescopes and Astronomical Instruments	6
Oct. 13*, 15	Overview of the Solar System	7
Oct. 20	Formation of the Solar System	8
Oct. 22	Planetary Interiors and Surfaces	9.1–9.2
Oct. 27	SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION	5–8
Oct. 29, Nov. 3	Geology of Terrestrial Planets	9.3–9.6
Nov. 5, 10	Terrestrial Planetary Atmospheres	10
Nov. 12, 17	Jovian Planets	11
Nov. 19	Asteroids, Comets & Meteoroids	12
Nov. 24, 26	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Dec. 1	Planets around Other Stars	13
Dec. 3	THIRD HOUR EXAMINATION	9–13

*Oct. 14th is the last day to withdraw with a grade of W possible; read and understand all of Section 1332.10 of the Undergraduate General Catalog.

Of course, **modifications to the above schedule may be necessary.**

new book. Set up your student ID for this course in the form LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME (with no spaces between them). Do the first assignment (which is not graded, as it is designed to familiarize you with the system) ASAP. All other assignments are due by the dates posted on our Mastering Astronomy webpage.

Labs: When you registered for this course you automatically signed up for one of the associated lab sections, to be held in Room 528 Kell. Before attending the first lab (on August 24th–28th) you must have the lab manual. You are also required to attend an observing session. Any questions concerning the labs should go to your instructor or Dr. John Wilson, who is in charge of the labs: wilson@chara.gsu.edu.