

ABBREVIATED SYLLABUS: ASTRONOMY 1020, FALL 2009

STELLAR AND GALACTIC ASTRONOMY

Prof. Paul J. Wiita

Lecture Times and Place: TTh 9:30–10:45 AM; 101 Classroom South
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 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 MAWIITA1020F09. If you didn't register when you took Astr 1010, you should do so promptly, using the code from the Student Access

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date(s)	Topic	Sections or Chapter(s)
Aug. 18	Introduction & The Nature of Science	Ch. 1, §3.4
Aug. 20, 25, 27	Nature of Light and Atoms	5
Sept. 1, 3	The Sun: The Nearest Star	14
Sept. 8, 10, 15	Observed Properties of Stars	15
Sept. 17	The Interstellar Medium	16.1
Sept. 22	FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION	1, 3.4, 5, 14, 15
Sept. 24, 29	Star Formation	16.2–16.3
Oct. 1	Main Sequence Stars	17.1, S.4
Oct. 6, 8	Post-Main Sequence Evolution	17
Oct. 13*, 15	White Dwarfs and Neutron Stars	18.1, 18.2
Oct. 20, 22	Relativity, Black Holes & Gamma-Ray Bursts	18.3, 18.4, S.2, S.3
Oct. 27	SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION	16–18, S.2–S.4
Oct. 29, Nov. 3	The Milky Way	19
Nov. 5, 10	An Expanding Universe & Active Galaxies	20, 21.3
Nov. 12, 17	Galaxy Evolution and Dark Matter	21.1, 21.2, 22.1, 22.2
Nov. 19	Cosmology: Structure of the Universe	22.3, 22.4
Nov. 24, 26	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Dec. 1	Cosmology: Big Bang & History of the Universe	23
Dec. 3	THIRD HOUR EXAMINATION	19–23

*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.**

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

Labs: When you registered for this course you automatically signed up for one of the associated lab sections, to be held in Room 516 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 .