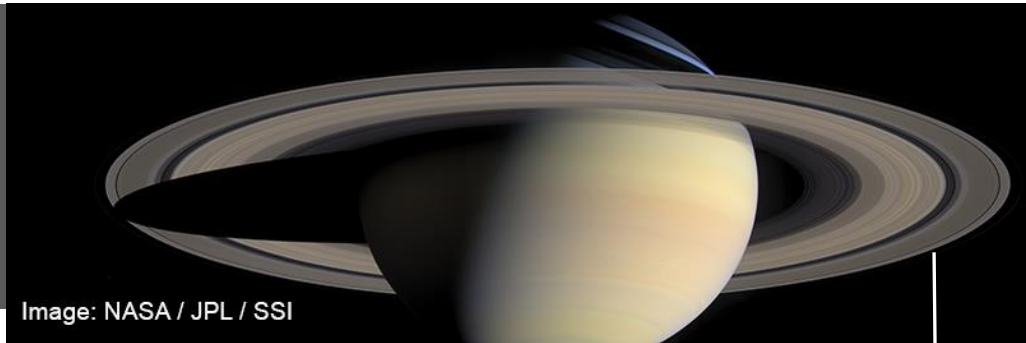


ASTR 4

Solar System Astronomy



Professor

The teacher for this class is Dr. Ann Marie Cody.

Email: codyannmarie@fhda.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm online via zoom.

Class meetings

This class is normally taught Monday through Friday 8:30-9:20am in the De Anza Planetarium. However, for spring 2021, it has moved online. Face-to-face meetings are scheduled from 4-4:50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You must log in to De Anza's Canvas system to access the course material. E-mail the professor for further details on how to do this.

Textbook

The textbook for this class is available for free online at:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy>

I recommend downloading the PDF version and using a PDF-reader program to read it, such as the free Adobe Reader.

Goals this Quarter

You'll be learning a lot about what planetary systems are and how they work this quarter. You'll also learn a lot about how a large college course like this works. Here are some specific things I want to help you do; I hope that doing these things enables you to become a more scientifically aware citizen, and get you excited about science no matter what your eventual path in life!

1. Make your own judgments about how the exploration of space might be of benefit to society. Many people often question why we explore the universe and study the Earth from space. In this course, you'll learn more about how these endeavors might benefit us "on the ground".
2. Compare and contrast the planets (and other objects) in our solar system, and in other solar systems, so as to understand why they turned out the way they did. We call this *comparative planetology*, and it's one of the main goals of the astronomers who study solar systems – i.e. the planets and other objects that orbit around stars.
3. Evaluate things that you read, hear, or see in the news about astronomy. We are all exposed to many sources of information (internet, TV, etc...) and there's a method for evaluating the things these sources tell us about the world and the universe – it's called the *scientific method*.

GRADING

Step 1:

Participate fully in the class (e.g., answer questions in assigned discussions and quizzes) to obtain 100 pts.

You take three (3) midterm exams and a final exam.

Test 1	200 pts
Test 2	200 pts
Test 3	200 pts
FINAL EXAM	300 pts
Optional extra credit assignment	25 pts

Step 2:

I drop the lowest midterm exam.

-200 pts = **400 pts of midterms**

There's no way I'm going to drop **the final**... I add that in to the total midterm and participation points.

Step 3:

I calculate the final grade.

Your final percentage =

The points you earned, after dropping lowest scores as described at left

DIVIDED BY...

800 total points

I then round your final percentage to the nearest whole percent, and use the following grading scale:

89-100	A
79-88	B
68-78	C
57-67	D
<57	F

Notes:

1. A percentage like 88.7% rounds to 89, so it's an A.
2. If something causes you to miss a test or quiz, that will be the one you drop.
3. I'm afraid my schedule won't allow me to give you a final at a different time in order to fit your vacation. You'll need to plan around the final – you may want to tell family members about this before they buy non-refundable plane tickets.

Astronomy 4 Class Rules and Guidelines

During the first few weeks of class, I will collect state-mandated class attendance data by assessing participation in our online system.

ADDING THE CLASS:

If you add the class, make sure that your add code has worked, and that you have been properly added to the class. If not, it is your responsibility to check with the Admissions/Records office to find out how this can be corrected. After the end of Week 2, the College CANNOT process a late add, and you could find yourself not enrolled and not receiving a grade for the course, if you're not registered

DROPPING THE CLASS:

I would like to see everyone complete the course, earn a good grade, and become excited about science. However, the realities of life sometimes get in the way.

You should assess your situation realistically throughout the quarter.

If you decide to drop the class, you must do so by the final date to drop with a "w", or you risk receiving an "F" if you haven't earned enough points to pass the class.

Also – and this is very important – ASKING FOR AN INCOMPLETE GRADE WILL NOT WORK AS A WAY AROUND THE FINAL DROP DATE! I can only assign an Incomplete in a few, very specific situations. If it's after Week 8, and you realize you should have dropped, and someone in Counseling or Admissions and Records tells you to ask me for an Incomplete, it is VERY UNLIKELY that the situation will actually warrant one! "I" grades cannot be given for missing a large fraction of the work in the course.

TESTS:

- You will be given a fixed amount of time to answer a series of questions online.
- No collaboration with classmates is allowed.
- You may, however, use your notes and book on exams.

NOTICE: Cheating on any exam or project is grounds for a failing grade in the class and a permanent note to a student's file. "Cheating" is defined (in this course) to be an effort by a student to obtain a grade by any means other than demonstration of that student's individual achievement in mastering the class material and/or fulfilling terms of a project.

Further grounds for expulsion from the class include any activity that interferes with others' ability to benefit from the class.

ASTRONOMY 4 Lecture Schedule, Spring 2021 Section 04Z

Important: Dates of TESTS are fixed, but the lecture topics (shown in *italics*) are tentative.

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
Wk 1	Apr	5 Course overview	6 Scientific method and distances in the Universe	7 Orienting ourselves on the night sky	8 Stars and their motions on the night sky	9 Apparent star motion, part II	10
Wk 2	Apr	12 Annual motion of the stars and Sun	13 Ancient and cultural astronomy	14 Astrology and astronomy	15 Copernicus, Tycho, and Galileo: A Sun-centered model	16 Kepler's laws	17 Last day to drop w/out W
Wk 3	Apr	19 Newton's laws	20 Gravity: A Universal Force	21 Orbits	22 Tides	23 TEST 1	24
Wk 4	Apr/ May	26 Review Test 1	27 What REALLY causes the seasons?	28 Eclipses	29 The phases of the moon	30 Introduction to light	1
Wk 5	May	3 Light and the EM Spectrum	4 Spectroscopy and atoms	5 Telescopes on Earth and in space	6 The Doppler effect	7 TEST 2	8
Wk 6	May	10 Review Test 2	11 Overview of the solar system	12 Origin of the solar system	13 Planetary surfaces	14 Earth: The planet we know best	15
Wk 7	May	17 The greenhouse effect on Earth	18 Mercury & Venus	19 Earth's moon	20 Mars: the Red Planet	21 Missions to Mars	22
Wk 8	May	24 The Giant Planets: atmospheres	25 The Giant Planets: interiors and magnetic fields	26 Moons of the solar system	27 TEST 3	28 Review Test 3 Last Drop Day	29
Wk 9	May/ Jun	31 HOLIDAY	1 Titan, Triton, and Pluto	2 Planetary rings	3 Exoplanets: detection	4 Exoplanets: discoveries	5
Wk 10	Jun	7 Exoplanets: habitability	8 The search for life in the universe	9 Our Sun: its structure and magnetic field	10 The Sun: How does it generate energy?	11 The future of our Solar System	12
Wk 11	Jun	14 Asteroids- failed planets	15 Asteroids: planetary defense	16 Comets	17 Meteors and Meteorites	18 Final exam review	19
Wk 12	Jun FINALS	21	22	23 FINAL EXAM DUE	24	25	26

Each test covers the material since the last test. Final Exam is comprehensive – it covers the whole quarter.

Reading assignments will be noted in the class's Canvas system.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

*Appraise the benefits to society of planetary research and exploration.

*Compare and contrast the development of planetary systems and of the major planet types, including those factors that have led to Earth's unique characteristics.

*Evaluate astronomical news items or theories concerning solar system astronomy based upon the scientific method.