

Syllabus Principles of Astronomy (PHY 1055-600)-Fall 2009

This is introductory astronomy course focused on the understanding of basic concepts and ideas. In order to accommodate different student backgrounds, mathematics is at the basic algebra level.

Textbook:

Roger Freedman and William Kaufmann III, "Universe" (sixth-edition) W.H. Freeman & Company, NY 2002.

Students should receive a copy of textbook in mail. The textbook is accompanied with CD-Rom that contains review materials, animations, videos etc. In addition, it has Starry Night Planetarium software. Using this software, you may see the sky look from any point in our solar system.

The textbook material will be covered as follows:

Weeks 1 and 2:.....(August 24-September 06).....Chapters 1-2.

Weeks 3 and 4:.....(September 07-September 20).....Chapters 3-5.

Weeks 5 and 6:.....(September 21-October 04).....Chapters 6-8.

Weeks 7 and 8:.....(October 05-October 18).....Chapters 9-20.

Chapters 9 to 17 are reading, only.

Weeks 9 and 10:.....(October 19-November 01).....Chapters 21-23.

Weeks 11 and 12:.....(November 02-November 15).....Chapters 24-26.

Weeks 13:.....(November 16-November 22).....Chapter 27.

Week 14:.....(November 23-November 29).....Thanksgiving break

Weeks 15 and 16:.....(November 30-December 13).....Chapters 28-30.

Chapter 30 is reading, only.

Grading:

Homeworks: 40%

Tests: 40%

Final exam: 20%

We will have seven homeworks.

Homeworks will be posted as follow:

Homework 1.....August 28.

Homework 2.....September 11.

Homework 3.....September 25.

Homework 4.....October 09.

Homework 5.....October 23.

Homework 6.....November 06.

Homework 7.....November 20.

Tests:

The four tests will be assigned:

Test 1.....September 18.

Test 2.....October 16.

Test 3.....November 13.

Test 4.....December 07.

You will be able to access homeworks two times (higher score will be taken toward final grade). Tests and Final Exam will have one access.

Final Exam:.....December 14, 2009.

All assignment dates refer to posting dates. Availability period for homeworks will be approximately 13 days, for the tests approximately 4 days, and for the final exam one day, only. For each assignment, I will post exact due date in timely manner.

**The course content, and course related information will be updated on daily basis.
You have to visit the course site regularly (the least two to three times per a week).**

Final grading:

A...86%-100%

B...70%-85%

C...60%-69%

D...50%-59%

F...below 50%

Please, be aware of Academic Integrity ("Undergraduate Catalog 2009-2010", Eastern Illinois University) regarding academic honesty, cheating, and plagiarism.