

PES 105 General Astronomy I: Fall, 2008

TR 9:25-10:40 Engineering #103

Course Syllabus

<p>Instructor: Robert G. Gist Office and Hours: ENGR 244, (W 6-7pm,Thu 12:30-1:30pm) UCCS e-mail: rgist@uccs.edu Web Site: http://www.uccs.edu/~rgist Credit Hours: 3 Prerequisite: None Text: (optional) <i>Astronomy: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe</i>, by Chaisson & McMillan</p>	<p>Course Description: <i>The methods and results of modern astronomy (mainly applied to our solar system - planets and Sun) at an elementary level. This course is primarily a lecture course, with limited mathematics required. However, it is a science course, and as such we will explore scientific reasoning and methods. We will study the observation methods used by ancient and modern man to examine the universe around us.</i></p>
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Scope of Material: My lectures will follow the outline of the text, and will cover much of the same material. You will get a good sense of what I see as important (i.e. test-able) material from the book. In addition, some topics will be covered in the lecture that are not addressed in much detail in the text. Exams will be based on lecture material and on the sections of the book that correspond to the lecture.

In-class projects: We will perform some in-class demonstrations and projects. These will provide some interactive examination of the topics we will be covering. The grading will be very simple: 3=Done right (100%), 2= Good effort (80%), 1=Participated (%50), 0=didn't participate (0%). These projects will count as 10% of your final grade.

At-home projects: Some projects will require effort and/or observation outside of class. No special equipment will be required; only your eyes and your mind (and paper and pen). Grading will be simple: 3= Done right (100%), 2= Good effort (80%), 1=Participated (%50), 0=didn't participate (0%). These projects will count as 10% of your final grade.

Exams: Exams will be in multiple-choice format. I will give you at least a week's notice as to the exact date of the exam as well as the material you will be responsible for on each test. In addition to the three mid-term exams there will be a comprehensive final exam during finals week in this classroom. Unless arrangements have been made prior to any exam, there will be no make-up exams. The lowest exam grade will be dropped to allow for unforeseen absences on exam day.

Grades: In summary, your grade will be weighted as shown. The letter grade ranges are posted on my website. Ranges include +'s and -'s.

In-class & at-home projects	20%
Exams (4)	80%

Reasonable accommodation: Students with a disability who require accommodations should provide a letter of accommodation from Student Enrichment Services (MH 105, x3354) within the first two weeks of the semester.

Calculators: Calculators will be necessary for some in-class and at-home projects. A basic calculator capable of trigonometric functions and square roots is sufficient. Calculators will not be required for exams.

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Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Read-ahead for this class
26-Aug Tue	Introduction and Overview	---
28-Aug Thu	Observing the Night Sky	Section E - Exploring the Heavens
2-Sep Tue	Labor Day Holiday	
4-Sep Thu	History & Observability	Section E - Exploring the Heavens
9-Sep Tue	Forces, Laws of Gravity & Motion	Ch 1 - The Copernican Revolution
11-Sep Thu	Forces, Laws of Gravity & Motion	Ch 1 - The Copernican Revolution
16-Sep Tue	Light and Atoms	Ch 2 - Light and Matter
18-Sep Thu	Light and Atoms	Ch 2 - Light and Matter
23-Sep Tue	Telescopes	Ch 3 - Telescopes
25-Sep Thu	Review	
30-Sep Tue	Exam #1	
2-Oct Thu	The Earth	Ch 5 - The Earth and its Moon
7-Oct Tue	The Earth	Ch 5 - The Earth and its Moon
9-Oct Thu	Timekeeping	
14-Oct Tue	The Earth & Moon	Ch 5 - The Earth and its Moon
16-Oct Thu	The Moon	
21-Oct Tue	Review	
23-Oct Thu	Exam #2	
28-Oct Tue	Solar system overview	Ch 4 - The Solar System
30-Oct Thu	Terrestrial Planets	Ch 6 - The Terrestrial Planets
4-Nov Tue	Terrestrial Planets	Ch 6 - The Terrestrial Planets
6-Nov Thu	Jovian Planets	Ch 7 - The Jovian Planets
11-Nov Tue	Jovian Planets	Ch 7 - The Jovian Planets
13-Nov Thu	Jovian Planets	Ch 7 - The Jovian Planets
18-Nov Tue	Dwarf planets and other bodies	Ch 8 - Moons, Rings, and Pluto
20-Nov Thu	Review	
25-Nov Tue	Exam #3	
27-Nov Thu	Thanks giving Holiday	Ch 9 - The Sun
2-Dec Tue	The Sun	Ch 9 - The Sun
4-Dec Thu	The Sun	Ch 9 - The Sun
9-Dec Tue	The History and Future of the Sun	Ch 12 - Stellar Evolution
11-Dec Thu	Review	
18-Dec Thu	Final Exam	8:30am to 10:30am