

Astronomy 101 Section 1
Course Syllabus

24 August, 2016

Welcome to Astronomy 101: ***Introduction to Astronomy: The Solar System.*** In this course, we will explore the Solar System and our place within it. This course will emphasize the processes that have shaped the individual worlds within the Solar System and what that can teach us about Earth as a planetary body. In the process, we'll also gain some insight into what science is and how it works.

Lecture: *Genome Sciences G100, MWF 12:20-1:10 pm.*

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Course website: <http://user.physics.unc.edu/~gcsloan/teaching/astro101/>
(as linked on the course Sakai site).

See this website for office hours, policies, handouts, and other information.

Pre-requisites: None

Texts:

Bennett, et al., *The Cosmic Perspective: The Solar System*, 8th Ed. (Boston: Pearson, 2016).
(Used copies or copies of the 7th Edition can be found online at a discount!)

Prather, et al., *Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy*, 3rd Ed. (Boston: Pearson, 2013)

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| Organization: | Unit I | The Birth of Astronomy | 10 lectures |
| | Unit II | Light | 5 lectures |
| | Unit III | The Inner Solar System | 7 lectures |
| | Unit IV | The Outer Solar System | 9 lectures |
| | Unit V | Exobiology | 6 lectures |

Grading: Final grades will consist of:

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| Mid-term Exams | 50 % |
| Final Exam | 30 % |
| Quizzes and exercises | 20 % |

Mid-term Exams

The mid-terms will follow Units I, III, and IV. The lowest mid-term score will be dropped. If a student has a university-approved reason for missing one of the three mid-terms, that is the score

that will be dropped. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative, covering all five units.

Quizzes and Exercises

Students will be quizzed in class about every 2-3 lectures. We'll also have a few exercises to be completed out of class. See the policies page of the course website for the required submission format and late policy. Exercises should be submitted in class on the due date. One exercise will be the equivalent of two quizzes for grading purposes. The lowest couple of quiz grades will be dropped, with the exact number depending on how many quizzes and exercises are assigned during the semester.

Attendance:

Attendance in lecture is encouraged but not mandatory. However, students are responsible for all material in lecture, in assignments, and in the textbook.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to be familiar with the University of North Carolina's Honor Code and follow it at all times. The link to this code can be found in the policies page on the course website.

While students are encouraged to work and study together, they must never forget that the work they submit for grading must be their own.

Violators of the Honor Code will be dealt with severely, receiving no credit for the work in question, potentially failing the course, and in most cases, being referred to the Honor System.