

Astronomy 1102/1104 Course Syllabus

19 January, 2009

Welcome to Astronomy 1102/1104, ***Our Solar System***. In this course, we will explore the Solar System and our place within it. This course will emphasize how we know what we know, how our knowledge of the Solar System has changed as astronomy developed as a science, and how science and culture interact.

Classes meet at: *Uris Auditorium (G01), MWF 11:15-12:05*

Sections meet: once per week; see the course website for details

Labs meet: every other week for Astr. 1104 students, see the course website

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Course website: <http://astro.cornell.edu/academics/courses/astro1102/>
See this site for office hours, section and lab schedules, and other information.

Pre-requisites: None

Text: Bennett et al., *The Cosmic Perspective: The Solar System*, 5th Ed. (San Francisco: Pearson, 2008). You only have to buy the text, and the 4th Ed. is sufficient.

Organization:	Unit I	The Birth of Astronomy	11 lectures
	Unit II	Light	4 lectures
	Unit III	The Inner Solar System	8 lectures
	Unit IV	The Outer Solar System	10 lectures
	Unit V	Exobiology	5 lectures

Grading:	Final grades will consist of:	Astr. 1102	Astr. 1104
3 Midterm Exams	40 %	32 %	
1 Final Exam	30 %	24 %	
Laboratories (1104 only)	0 %	20 %	
Section Grade	20 %	16 %	
Lecture Questions	10 %	8 %	

Midterm Exams

The midterms will follow Units I, III, and IV, with the second midterm covering Units II and III. The lowest midterm score will be dropped; the other two will count for 20% each. If a student has a university-approved reason for missing one of the three midterms, that is the score that will be dropped. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative, Units I-V.

Laboratories

Astr. 1104 students must attend all five labs. See the lab webpage on the course website for further information.

Section Grade

Section grades will be based primarily on the approximately 12 exercises assigned over the semester. An additional component will depend on the policies of the teaching assistant, and will generally involve classroom participation and quiz scores.

Lecture Questions

Students will typically be asked at least two clicker questions per lecture. To receive a grade for these, they must register their clickers with CIT as explained on the course website. Students should plan to attend *every lecture and section* with a clicker.

Exercise procedure:

See the policies page of the course website for the required submission format and late policy. Exercises will be due in section. Those submitted late will be penalized 10% the first day and 10% each day until they are graded and returned. The lowest exercise grade(s) will be dropped (the number will depend on the total assigned).

Attendance:

Attendance in lecture or section is not mandatory, but students:

- (1) are responsible for all material in lecture, in sections, and in the textbook.
- (2) will not have the opportunity to make up clicker questions missed during lecture or quizzes missed in their sections.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to be familiar with and follow Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity. The link to this code can be found in the policies page on the course website. In particular, Section I.B. gives the following examples of violations:

1. Knowingly representing the work of others as one's own.
2. Using, obtaining, or providing unauthorized assistance on examinations, papers, or any other academic work.

While students are encouraged to work and study together, but they must never forget that what the work they turn in for grading must be their own. In other words, discuss the question and how you might answer it, but be sure that you answer it on your own.

Violators of the code of academic integrity will be dealt with severely, receiving no credit for the work in question and, in most cases, being referred to the Academic Integrity Hearing Board.