

**Physics 174**  
**Course Syllabus**

22 January, 2007

Welcome to Physics 174, Solar System Astronomy. In this course, you will learn about 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 other aspects of our culture interact.

**Venue:** CNS 208, MWF 2 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Gregory C. Sloan  
CNS 272 (or 271)  
gsloan@ithaca.edu (best method to contact me)  
274-3849 at Ithaca College (don't use the voicemail)  
255-7504 at Cornell (no voicemail)

**Course website:** <http://www.ithaca.edu/faculty/gsloan/ph174/>

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Text:** Seeds, *The Solar System, 5th Ed.* (Thomson/Brooks Cole, 2007)

<b>Organization:</b>	Unit I	The Birth of Astronomy	11 lectures
	Unit II	Light	4 lectures
	Unit III	Modern Planetary Astronomy	17 lectures
	Unit IV	Exobiology	5 lectures

**Attendance:** Students are responsible for all material in the textbook and presented in class. They should attend *every class* with a calculator and their clicker (see *Quizzes* below).

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on:

3 midterm exams	40 %
1 final exam	30 %
exercises	15 % (approximately)
quizzes	15 % (approximately)

The lowest midterm score will be dropped; the other two will count for 20% each. Your final grade will be based on your score and rank relative to other students and not on any absolute scores.

*Exercises*

Approximately 12 exercises will be assigned over the semester. Some will be

completed and turned in during class; we will work on others in class but complete them at home. Some exercises, mostly observing assignments, will be for outside of class. Students should ensure that they have read and understand the section on **Academic Honesty** below before submitting their assigned exercises.

### *Quizzes*

We will have many quizzes during the semester. Basically, the various quizzes we take will be graded on three different systems:

- 1) Two points for each question attempted.
- 2) One point for each question attempted, another point for each correct answer
- 3) Two points for each question answered correctly.

Students should always assume that the last system applies.

While attendance in lecture is not mandatory, students must keep in mind that 15% of their grades are based on quiz results, and no make-up quizzes will be offered.

Students will answer all questions using Personal Response Systems (PRS devices, or clickers). The clickers on sale at the campus bookstore can also be used in other classes. Students who already have one do not need to purchase another. Seniors can sell them back when they complete their studies at Ithaca College.

### **Academic Honesty**

Each student is responsible for understanding the Ithaca College Student Conduct Code and Standards of Academic Conduct. Links to these codes and standards can be found on the course website. Students should visit the course website, follow those links, and review the material within them. Students who violate these rules, whether intentionally or not, will be unpleasantly surprised by the consequences.

Section 7.1.2.3.3. states the essential rule underlying the various standards:

"... work submitted by a student should be the result of that student's own honest effort. If other sources are consulted, they should be acknowledged. ..."

Students are encouraged to work together and consult each other in this class, but the work they submit must be their own. When they actually write an answer down, they must be expressing their own thoughts. Students who copy other students' answers or allow other students to copy their answers are guilty of academic dishonesty. Your instructor will gladly address any questions on this matter.