ASTR 101
INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY:
THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Professor: Dr. Dan Reichart
Class Location: 111 Carroll
Class Hours:
  Section 1: 1:00 – 1:50 MWF
  Section 2: 12:00 – 12:50 MWF
  Section 990/991/992/993/994: Anytime!
Office Hours Location: 403 Morehead Planetarium (use east/arboretum entrance)
Office Hours: 2 – 3 W, 1 – 2 R, or by appointment
Email: reichart@unc.edu

LECTURES & TEXT

For the most part, the lectures will follow Chapters 1 – 15 and 28 of the 8th edition of Astronomy Today by Chaisson & McMillan. Chapters 16 – 27 will be covered in ASTR 102: Introduction to Astronomy: Stars, Galaxies & Cosmology.

You may purchase the 8th edition in the bookstore at a significantly marked up price, or you may purchase it online for less. Alternatively, you may use the sufficiently similar 7th or even 6th editions, which can be purchased online for significantly less.

The lectures are meant to highlight and supplement the material in the text, but not replace it: Please read each chapter before it is covered in class (see WebAssign below for reading assignments). You are responsible for the material covered in both the lectures and the text.

If you missed lecture, or attended lecture and simply want to see it again, I am posting video lectures at http://youtube.com/introastro (edited) and http://research.physics.unc.edu/project/reichart/astr101 (unedited).

ONLINE SECTION

We also offer this course fully online, through the Friday Center: Section 990/991/992/993/994. If you switch to this section, you are still welcome to attend lecture, at 12 PM or 1 PM, or not at all, instead making use of the video lectures.

The advantages of taking the online section are:

- An online discussion board where you can interact with the other students when doing the homework assignments.
- More time to take the exams: 2 days (instead of 50 minutes) for the midterms and 3 days (instead of 3 hours) for the finals!

Furthermore, fulltime UNC students can now enroll for free, here: http://fridaycenter.unc.edu/cp/cco/enrollment.htm. But enrollment is limited…
WEBASSIGN

Homeworks will be administered through WebAssign. To register, go to http://webassign.net, select “Enter Class Key”, and follow the instructions. Your class key is:

- Section 1 (1:00 – 1:50 MWF): unc 3380 1964
- Section 2 (12:00 – 12:50 MWF): unc 0525 5076
- Section 990/991/992/993/994 (online): unc 2280 2211

You will have two weeks to pay for your account, which you can do by credit or debit card online after you log in. The cost should be $35. Alternatively, you can purchase an access code card at the bookstore (again, for a significantly marked-up price).

At the top of each lesson’s homework, you will additionally find links to each lesson’s reading assignment, supplementary notes (including all equations used in the course), supplementary exercises (Lessons 1 – 4), and an extra credit homework (Lesson 5). Homework and exam grade distributions will also be posted on WebAssign.

GRADES

90% is not an A, 80% is not a B, etc. Course grades will be assigned on a curve at the end of the semester: The top 25% of the class will receive As, the next 35% will receive Bs, the next 25% will receive Cs, the next 10% will receive Ds, and the bottom 5% will be considered for an F (typically I give roughly half of these students Ds for trying). I will let you know how you did compared to your classmates after each homework and exam. All that matters is how well you do compared to your classmates.

Homeworks count for 1/3 of your course grade. Homeworks will be available through WebAssign well before the due date and will always be due at 12:00 PM (see Homework Calendar below for due dates). After submitting homework, check and make sure that WebAssign received all of your answers before logging off. This is your responsibility! Late homeworks will not be accepted without a formal medical excuse. There will be nine homeworks total, one for each lesson. Your worst performance will be dropped.

Exams count for 2/3 of your course grade. Exams will be given in class (see Exam Calendar below for dates). Midterms will last 50 minutes and the final will last three hours. The final, which will be cumulative but with an emphasis placed on recent material, will count as two midterms. Your worst performance will be dropped, unless it is the final, in which case the final will count as one midterm. Makeup exams will not be given without a formal medical excuse. Exams will be closed book, but you are allowed to bring one sheet of notes, front and back. You are required to bring a UNC Chapel Hill Office of Information Technology General Purpose Answer Sheet (scantron form), a #2 pencil, and a scientific calculator.

Mobile devices may not be used, or even out, during exams. Failure to comply can result in anything from an F on the exam, to an F for the course, to honor court proceedings, to expulsion from the university. You must show your UNC OneCard when turning in exams.
LABS

ASTR 101L: *Introduction to Astronomy Laboratory: Our Place in Space* is a separate 1-credit course that parallels the ASTR 101/102 sequence, but in a single semester. You may take it with ASTR 101, with ASTR 102, separately from both, or not at all: ASTR 101L is not required, but it is a cool way to fulfill your General College laboratory requirement. **This semester, ASTR 101L begins the week of August 25th.** Do not be late!

**HOMEWORK & EXAM CALENDAR**

Homework 1 due on Friday, September 5  
Homework 2 due on Friday, September 19  
Homework 3 due on Friday, October 3  
Exam 1 on Friday, October 10  
Homework 4 due on Monday, October 20  
Homework 5 due on Monday, October 27  
Homework 6 due on Friday, November 7  
Exam 2 on Wednesday, November 12  
Homework 7 due on Monday, November 17  
Homework 8 due on Monday, November 24  
Homework 9 due on Thursday, December 4  
Final Exam:  
  Section 1 (1:00 – 1:50 MWF) on Monday, December 8 from 12 – 3  
  Section 2 (12:00 – 12:50 MWF) on Friday, December 12 from 12 – 3  
  Section 990/991/992/993/994 (12:00 – 12:50 MWF) from Tuesday, December 9 at 3 – Friday, December 12 at 3