

# Physics 103 – Spring Introduction to Astronomy

Professors :	Phone	E-mail
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## Class meeting:

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:20 pm Duke 102

Lab: Mondays or Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:50 pm Hornby 2

## Office Hours:

Monday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday 3:00 - 3:50 pm

(and by prior appointment with instructor)

## Text

“Astronomy: A Beginner’s Guide to the Universe” by Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan (3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Prentice Hall, 2001)

## Goals

1. To understand (and appreciate) what you see in the sky. What is out there?
2. To understand scientific news stories. Are they accurately reported? What do they mean?
3. To understand popular entertainment. Is it realistic? Is it possible?

## Final Exam

**The final exam will be Tuesday, May 21st at 9:00 am. Note the non-standard time.**

## Class Web Site

[http://newton.uor.edu/FacultyFolder/tyler\\_nordgren/Astronomy/](http://newton.uor.edu/FacultyFolder/tyler_nordgren/Astronomy/)

## Organization

**Lectures:** Lectures are each Tuesday and Thursday. Readings out of the text book, or other sources, will be assigned each lecture to be completed by the following lecture. Each lecture will be given as a review to what was in the reading assigned for that day. Be sure to do the reading.

Lecture notes will be placed on the web approximately one week prior to lecture. Astronomy is a subject based on images (pretty pictures) and we want you to have access to them. THE LECTURE NOTES DO NOT REPLACE COMING TO

CLASS! You will be responsible for the notes, what we do in class, and the assigned readings.

**Homework:** Each lecture, along with the reading assignment, a homework assignment will be given out. It is due the next lecture at the beginning of class. You will receive the graded homework the lecture after that. While several questions will appear on each assignment, only one question will be graded. If your answer to that question is fully correct, you will receive full credit for that homework assignment. If your answer is NOT fully correct, then when you receive the homework back, you will have until the next lecture to resubmit the answer for full credit. This continues until you get the question fully correct (and you thus get full credit). Keep in mind that a new assignment is still given out each lecture that you are still required to turn in. Failure to get the assignment correct the first or second time out will lead to a serious backlog of assignments on your part.

Be sure to clearly write the assignment number at the top of each homework assignment in order to avoid confusion on your part and mine.

No late homework is accepted.

Each lecture I plan to assign a problem to be worked out by students in small groups in class. Be sure to have done the reading and homework assignments and you will be able to impress your classmates.

A short quiz will be given each Thursday in class to help assess how well you are keeping up in class.

**Labs:** Labs are Monday afternoon (section 1) or Wednesday afternoon (section 2). They are each week. The first half hour or so of each lab time will be spent reviewing the course material or answering any questions you may have. This is your time to clear up whatever questions you have.

Four times during the semester, on the night of labs, we will be traveling 30 minutes to the mountains for evening observing with telescopes. You are required to attend three of these. If you cannot make these nights, drop the course now. Since we obviously cannot observe if the weather is cloudy, there is a designated back-up date for that observing session (usually the week after). See the schedule below and on the class web page.

On the class web page there are driving directions and instructions on appropriate clothing to wear. It is cold in the mountains. If you are not dressed appropriately you will be sent home and not receive credit for that night.

**Exams:** Three exams will be given during the course of the semester. Your lowest grade is dropped. We all have bad days. Just make sure you don't have more than one. Each exam covers only the material covered in class between it and the previous exam. The final exam is inclusive of the whole semester. The date of the final is set and cannot be changed by me. If you have a problem you must contact Dean Lawry Finsen (x4080). I can do nothing about changing the date of the exam or allowing you to take it at another time. Don't even ask.

## Grading

Homework	20%
Quizzes	10%
Labs	20%
Exams	30%
Final Exam	20%

## Exam Dates:

Exam #1 Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Exam #2 Thursday, April 11, 2002

Exam #3 Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Final Exam, Tuesday, May 21, 2002 – 9:00 am

## Observing Labs

### Monday Lab Section 1

Obs. Night	Back-up Night
Feb 18	Feb 25
Mar 11	Mar 12 (!)
Apr 8	Apr 15
May 6	May 13

### Wednesday Lab Section 2

Obs. Night	Back-up Night
Feb 20	Feb 27
Mar 13	Mar 14 (!)
Apr 10	Apr 17
May 8	May 15