Physics 64-190  “Introduction to Astronomy I”

Fall 2009

Instructor  Dr Tim Reddish
Office: 289-1 Essex Hall / Research Lab: B90 Essex Hall

Lectures  Tuesday & Thursday  5:30-6:20pm
Room G133 Chrysler North

Text Books  *Astronomy Today* by Chaisson & McMillan (Prentice Hall)

Office Hours  “Open Door” Policy. No regular times are scheduled in order to accommodate students’ diverse timetables. Please try the above office first; if for some reason your queries cannot be addressed at that time, we can schedule a further meeting.

Assignments  None, however, you are strongly advised to “self-test” using the material and the end of each chapter.

Evaluation  One Mid-Term Test  30%
*Date: 29 October (Thursday) Place: AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM  
Time:  5:30-6:45pm*
Class Quizzes  20%  (Each announced within 48hrs of the Quiz.)
Final Exam (3 hours)  50%

Final Examination  *Provisional Date/Time: 15:30 hrs Thursday December 17th 2009*

Class Notes:  [http://web2.uwindsor.ca/courses/physics/reddish/teaching/190/TJR-64-190.htm](http://web2.uwindsor.ca/courses/physics/reddish/teaching/190/TJR-64-190.htm)
Registered students can use their personal University of Windsor ID and Password to gain access to the site.

All Assessments are compulsory. There will be no ‘make-up’ examinations for any test, quiz or examinations without acceptable and verifiable medical (or equivalent compassionate) reasons. See Note (d) below.
Outline of Syllabus

The Syllabus follows Parts 1 & 2 in “Astronomy Today”

Part 1: Astronomy and the Universe.

Charting the Heavens: The Foundations of Astronomy
The Copernican Revolution

Part 2: Our Planetary System

The Moon and Mercury: Scorched and Battered Worlds
Venus: Our Sister Planet
Mars: A Near Miss for Life?
Jupiter: Giant of the Solar System
Saturn: Spectacular Rings and Mysterious Moons
Uranus, Neptune and Pluto: The Outer Worlds
The Earth

Bonus Lecture: “Learning from Light” (Time permitting)

Note:

(a) Ultimately, the syllabus is given by the contents of the lectures, not the recommended book.
(b) The recommended book will also serve 64-191.
(c) The web pages (password protected) contain all the course material, but it is in your interest to attend all the lectures.
(d) Any ‘medical notes’ must be submitted prior to the relevant midterms or final exam.
(e) Exams will not be handed back to the students; however the professor strongly encourages you to visit his office after the Midterms (or Final) to go through your paper and learn from mistakes. This mechanism provides an important opportunity for more personal tuition and feedback.
(f) The professor will return the final course marks on the official Faculty of Science grade scale and reserves the right to modify the marks in a fair and equitable way for the whole class, to the students benefit, under exceptional circumstances (as defined by the Professor).
(g) The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) forms will be distributed during one of the classes of the final 2 weeks of the semester.
(h) University-recognised (via the University Disability Services) ‘special needs’ students should make themselves known to the professor at the beginning of the course and discuss what, if any, special arrangements are needed and how they might be accommodated.
(i) Plagiarism and academic dishonesty is a serious offence and will be addressed using official University guidelines/policies.
(j) The Class Notes web site will be updated from time to time throughout the course. Please check regularly for “updates” – especially before Midterms and the Final exam.