University of Victoria  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Astronomy 101 - Exploring the Night Sky  
Spring 2019 Syllabus

General Information

Instructor: Travis Martin  
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Office: Elliot 402B  
Office Hours: TBA  
Course Webpage: http://coursespaces.uvic.ca

Lecture Schedule: Tues, Wed, Fri from 11:30am - 12:20pm in DSB C103.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course. The material covered in this course will be taught with a minimum expectation of mathematics. Students comfortable with mathematics and physics may wish to consider taking ASTR150 and/or 250.

Course Materials:

- (Required) Astro 101 Lab Manual  
- (Required) i>Clicker  
- (Recommended) The Solar System by Seeds and Backman.

Note: The bookstore sells both paperback and digital-only copies, which include the online MindTap system bundled together. The MindTap system is used to access digital copies of the textbook. There is no option to purchase it without MindTap through the bookstore. Other sellers may have paperback versions of the text, which work just as well.

Some notes regarding minimum participation in order to pass this course:

- You must achieve a minimum 50% grade in the lab component of the course in order to pass the course. Students who miss a lab for a valid reason (doctor confirmed illness or family emergency) will be offered the opportunity to write a makeup lab at the end of the semester. For all such cases, contact the course instructor, Travis Martin, immediately. Missing a lab without this approval will result in a 0 for that lab exercise.

- You must achieve a minimum 40% grade in each of the quiz and clicker components of the course in order to pass the course.

A failure in any of these conditions will result in a grade of F for the course, regardless of your overall performance in the course.
Course Outline

The lecture slides for this course generally follow the material in the recommended textbook. However, the material has been arranged in a non-linear fashion, and some extra material (not in the textbook) has been included to round out the discussion.

Below is an approximate outline of the order and dates in which material will be covered. Depending on the depth of in-class discussion, the material may take more or less time than anticipated. In the scenario that material takes longer than expected, some slides may be skipped in the lectures. Students are responsible for ALL of the material in the slides, including those that are skipped, since the full set of slides are available to students via CourseSpaces.

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Grading

This course has four grading components. The weighted average from these four components will be used to guide the grade assessment. If the application of this scheme would result in grades that are judged by the instructor to be inconsistent with the University’s grading descriptions (https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014/FACS/UnIn/UARe/Grad.html), then the instructor will assign percentages consistent with them. The instructor will review all lab marks prior to assigning a final grade.

Clicker Questions: 10%

Clicker question grades are participation based only. There will be at least one clicker question per lecture, and questions may occur at any time during the lecture – placement within the material is based on learning objectives. (Note: Students arriving late or leaving early may miss enough questions to not receive any marks for the lecture.) These questions are meant to encourage students to pay attention and participate actively in the class.

Quizzes: 20%

Quizzes will be administered via CourseSpaces on Thursdays, approximately every other week (total of 5 quizzes). Students are responsible for tracking the dates of the quizzes and ensuring they are completed. Because the quizzes are available for an entire day, missing a quiz for any reason other than illness will not be accommodated. In the case of illness, the grade weight for that quiz will be redistributed among the other quizzes and/or final exam.

The quizzes are open book, but students may NOT collaborate with other people or seek outside help. I will be using software to monitor the quizzes and students found collaborating may be reported to the university administration for an academic integrity violation.

These quizzes will be comprised of a combination of multiple choice questions, true/false questions and short answer questions. These questions will focus on the material covered in the lecture slides, but may require you to investigate the material further in order to fully understand the concepts.

Laboratory Activities: 25%

You must attend your scheduled lab section. You are not free to attend other lab sections without approval of the lab supervisor.

There are a total of five labs throughout this course. These are experiential sessions to provide students with a hands-on understanding of the material. More information about the labs is provided in the lab manual that students must purchase for the course.

Due to the challenges of coordinating labs and lectures, it is not possible to synchronize the material from the labs with the material from the course. Some labs exercises may precede the discussion of the material in the lectures, however steps are taken to minimize this as much as possible.

Final Exam: 45%

The material of the final exam will be comprehensive of the material covered in the course, and the questions will be similar in style and scope to those in the quizzes. However, there may be additional types of questions, such as image identification. Thus, it is important that students be able to identify images presented throughout the lectures.
University Regulations on Academic Integrity

These regulations are reproduced from [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2011/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoACI.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2011/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoACI.html). For full information, including procedures for dealing with academic integrity infringement, see the webpage linked above.

Several types of academic integrity violations are covered in brief below.

**Plagiarism**

A student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- submits the work of another person as original work
- gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student’s work, including failing to indicate clearly the inclusion of another individual’s work
- paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement as described above

Students who are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism in a particular instance should consult their course instructor.

**Falsifying Material Subject to Academic Evaluation**

Falsifying materials subject to academic evaluation includes, but is not limited to:

- fraudulently manipulating laboratory processes, electronic data or research data in order to achieve desired results
- using work prepared by someone else (e.g., commercially prepared essays) and submitting it as one’s own
- citing a source from which material was not obtained
- using a quoted reference from a non-original source while implying reference to the original source
- submitting false records, information or data, in writing or orally

**Cheating on Assignments, Tests/Quizzes and Examinations**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- copying the answers or other work of another person
- sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests and examinations except where the instructor has authorized collaborative work
- having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners impersonating a candidate on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such impersonation
  - *assisting others to engage in conduct that is considered cheating*

I will be using software to analyze student responses on class work to ensure that student responses are sufficiently unique.

The most common form of violation in this course is in the labs. Lab reports will be monitored for copying and information sharing beyond what is allowed in the lab period. Any copying, either of another student’s work or from the internet/lab manual/textbook will result in a zero on the offending work and a formal review for an academic integrity violation.