

ASTR 1345
Astronomy I: Night Sky and the Solar System
Fall 2014

Tu Th 5:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m. Science Hall 103

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. M. Cuntz, Professor
OFFICE: Chemistry and Physics Bldg. (New Planetarium), Rm 330
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OFFICE HOURS: “after class” OR by appointment, please send Email

TEXTBOOK: **Discovering the Universe, 9th Edition**
by N. F. Comins and W. F. Kaufmann

COURSE CONTENT: Discovering Astronomy (Chapter 1, Sections 1-1 thru 1-3) [x]
Earth Cycles, Night Sky (Chapter 1, Sections 1-4 thru 1-13) [x]
Gravitation and Planets (Chapter 2, Sections 2-1 thru 2-9) [x]
Formation of the Solar System and Other Planetary Systems
(Chapter 5, Sections 5-1 thru 5-13) [y]
Earth and Moon (Chapter 6, Sections 6-1 thru 6-10) [y]
Other Terrestrial Planets (Chapter 7, Sections 7-1 thru 7-16) [y]
The Outer Planets (Chapter 8, Sections 8-1 thru 8-19) [z]
Dwarf Planets, Asteroids, Comets (Chap. 9, Sect. 9-1 thru 9-9) [z]
Meteoroids, Meteors, Meteorites (Chap. 9, Sect. 9-10 thru 9-14) [z]

OBJECTIVES: Contemplate the night sky, the constellations, and fundamental motions. Learn about the formation and structure of our Solar System and other planetary systems. Learn about the eight planets and the other objects of the Solar System.

EXAMINATIONS: **Test 1** will be held on September 23 (Tu), 2014 [items x]
Test 2 will be held on October 21 (Tu), 2014 [items y]
Test 3 will be held on November 20 (Th), 2014 [items z]
Final Exam will be held on December 09 (Tu), 2014 [items x y z]

GRADING POLICY: The test with the **lowest grade** will be dropped.
Each remaining test will be worth 25% of the final grade.
The **laboratory grade** will be worth 25% toward your grade.
The **final exam** will also be worth 25% of the final grade.
There will also be a policy how to be excused from the final.
(But if you need to take the final exam, the grade of the final exam won't be dropped regardless.)

LABORATORY GRADE: Must be **60 points** or more to pass the course!

There will be a detailed review prior to each test.

No make-up tests, unless arranged in advance and depending on circumstances*.

Even if agreed on, make-up tests will always have a **lesser number of extra-credit questions**.

You have to pass **both the class and the lab** in order to pass the course (See Memo).

*Accommodations will be provided for students with special needs (See additional information).

Additional Information

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Accommodations to Students with Disabilities

The Univ. of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public law 93112-The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

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Instructor: Dr. M. Cuntz

Course Grade Policy: A student has to pass both the class and the lab in order to attain a passing grade for the course. This means that both the class grade and the lab grade must be 60 or higher, regardless of the grade average.

What happens when ...

... a student passes the class, but fails the lab.

Action: The student will receive an “I”.

... a student fails the class, but passes the lab.

Action: The student will receive an “F”.

... a student fails the class and fails the lab.

Action: The student will receive an “F”.

... a student passes the class and passes the lab.

Action: The student will receive an “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D”, as earned, depending on the overall average.

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Rules of the Exemption of Students from the Final

The following rules will be applied for exempting students from the Final:

An exemption from the Final will be granted in case that a student has

1) at least 89.5% correct answers in Test 1 **and** Test 2 **and** Test 3

OR

2) at least 92% correct as **average** between Test 1, Test 2, Test 3.

Rule 2 allows that a relatively low grade in one of the Tests (88%, for instance) can be compensated by an exceptionally high grade (98%, for instance) in one of the other tests.

Exemptions from the Final are unrelated to your Lab grade.

Dr. Manfred Cuntz
Department of Physics, UTA