

AST 1002/10374
Descriptive Astronomy
Course Syllabus
Fall 2016

Course Goals and Objectives:

A one-term course of lectures and demonstrations designed to meet the general education requirements in physical science for non-science majors. The course includes topics in elementary physics, unaided-eye astronomy, the moon, sun, solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmology.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Anthony S. Russo Tel: (W) 729-5242 (C) 974-8544
Email: (W) russoa@nwfsc.edu
Office: S-211: Science Building

Grade Calculation: 25% is the average of 4 tests, 20% activities, and 30% final exam (written & oral), 25% is your score on the chapter quizzes.
Students with special needs may need an escort to the outside observing sessions.

Course Policies:

I allow the use of personal computers **for note-taking only** during lectures, but no other personal electronics.

Students are required to attend all class sessions regularly. Students will not be excused during outside activities for any reason unless allowed to do so by Mr. Russo. Students with excessive absences may be withdrawn from the class unless sufficient contact with Mr. Russo has been made. Otherwise, the general attendance policies as described in the *2015-16 Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*, will apply. Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/email use and other times included in the *2015-16 Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*, and students should be familiar with them. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal, disciplinary action.

Course Materials:

Text: **The Essential Cosmic Perspective:** Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit 7th edition.

Test Rules:

Students will be allowed to consult their own prepared note cards (see below for the rules on these). Test will consist of essay questions from the chapters covered, and possibly some star naming. The essay questions will be from class lectures.

Each test is timed (approximately 30 minutes) with 1 hour for the written part of the final exam. The use of any personal electronics such as but not limited to, personal computers, iPods, MP-3 players, cell phones, or recorders, on the tests is prohibited. Special

accommodations for handicapped students must be made in advance. A brief review will be given the meeting before each test. During the review, a pre-test will be given. Points gained will be applied as bonus points on the accompanying test. There will be no pretest for the final exam.

Rules for the Note-cards

1. These may be handwritten or typed.
2. They may be on index cards or notebook paper
3. They must be in hard copy, not on a personal computer.
4. There will be **no photocopying of the textbook**.
5. Material downloaded from the internet **is not allowed**. This includes class power points.

Quiz Rules: The chapter quizzes are all to be taken online. They consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. There are approximately 25-30 multiple choice questions and 10 true/false questions per chapter quiz. These quizzes are timed and randomized, and you will be allowed to consult your note-cards as you take them. You are allowed 3 attempts per chapter quiz. D2L will take your highest attempt as your score.

Written Final Exam: The written final exam will be on the evening of the last class. **The Final Exam will be comprehensive, covering all chapters covered.** The final exam will also have an oral part, which will be given as soon as possible. The two parts will be weighted equally. **The written final exam will be on Monday, December 12, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:20pm.**

Class Activities:

Most of our class activities will be outside, but some may be inside. Please come dressed for the weather. Pest repellent will be supplied. In these activities I will point out celestial objects as weather permits. We will also do some telescope observing. Activities may be done inside also.

After each activity, a short, 1-paragraph report will be due from each person on the evening of the next class meeting. **You will not get credit for this activity unless you turn in the report.** These will not be graded, but merely checked off for participation. Your activity score will be based on the number of inside/outside activities we do and the number of reports you turn in.

If you miss an activity, you will not be allowed to make it up. If so, please do not turn in a report. I normally allow students to miss an activity or two (depending on how many we do) without it hurting your final grade.

Policy Regarding Bringing Children to Class

As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students make this policy mandatory particularly in outside activities. If a child-related emergency means you must miss class, contact Mr. Russo as soon as possible.

Emergency Disclaimer

In the unlikely event that the college should close due to tropical storm or hurricane, or other disaster man-made or not, a recovery class schedule will be announced. The student will not be penalized as a result of this, but will be responsible for new requirements.

Policy Regarding Cell Phone/Electronic Communication Devices

Cell phones may be used in our outside activities, but only for taking pictures. Please do not use them for calling. They may not be used in the classroom, for any reason. If you need to use an electronic communication device for an emergency or for employment, please see me.