

# AST 1002, DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY, SPRING 2026

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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- Professor: C. J. Sweeney, Ph. D.
- Email: [sweeneyc@nwfsc.edu](mailto:sweeneyc@nwfsc.edu)
- Phone: (850) 729-4920
- Office Hours: N/A
- Office Location (Campus/Building/Room): N/A

## INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSO email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications. The instructor will respond within 48 hours, **Monday through Friday**.

## COURSE INFORMATION

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- Course Subject and Number: AST 1002
- Course Name and Number: Descriptive Astronomy/ 30150
- Class Location (Campus/Building/Room): N/A
- Class Modality: online
- Class Days: M W
- Class Times: N/A
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: W 6/24/26

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This non-laboratory, one-semester course is designed to meet the general education requirements in physical science for non-science majors and for students in related scientific fields needing a scientific elective. The course includes topics in planetary astronomy, the sun and stellar evolution, galaxies, and cosmology. Also covered are basic physical laws, light, and telescopes. Exercises require only basic math with some very limited algebra.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Text: J. Bennett, *et al.*, *The Essential Cosmic Perspective*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pearson Education, Inc., New York, 2022), ISBN-10: 0-135-79512-5, ISBN-13: 978-0-135-79512-5; the companion software “Mastering Astronomy” is not required.

## ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES

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### Assignments

Date	Assignment
W 5/13/26	Introduction to the course; Chapt. 1
M 5/18/26	Chapt. 2, Chapt. 3; Attendance Confirmation Assignment due at 5 PM Central Time
W 5/20/26	Chapt. 4; Test 1 Chapt. 1-3 due at 5 PM Central Time
M 5/25/26	Chapt. 5
W 5/27/26	Chapt. 6; Test 2, Chapt. 4-6 due at 5 PM Central Time
M 6/1/26	Chapt. 7; Chapt. 8
W 6/3/26	Chapt. 9; Chapt. 10; Test 3, Chapt. 7-9 due at 5 PM Central Time
M 6/8/26	Chapt. 11, Chapt. 12;
W 6/10/26	Chapt. 13, Chapt. 14; Test 4, Chapt. 10-12 due at 5 PM Central Time
M 6/15/26	Chapt. 15, Chapt. 16
W 6/17/26	Chapt. 17, Chapt. 18; Test 5, Chapt. 13-15 due at 5 PM Central Time
M 6/22/26	Day Off
W 6/24/26	Final Examination, Chapt. 16-18 due at 5 PM Central Time

As the schedule shows, there will be six tests, including the final examination. The lowest one will be automatically dropped. The remaining five will be averaged together to get your final grade according to:

### Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

### OPTIONAL SPACE FOR INSTRUCTOR

Make up work will be permitted at the discretion of the instructor.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

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NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
<p><a href="#">Academic Integrity</a></p>	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.</p>
<p><a href="#">Accommodations</a></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Accommodation Resource Center</a> at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.</p>
<p><a href="#">Attendance</a></p>	<p>Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.</p>
<p><a href="#">Tutoring Services</a></p>	<p>Tutoring services are available in person and online.</p>
<p><a href="#">Counseling Services</a></p>	<p>All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.</p>
<p><a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a></p>	<p>Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<p><a href="#">Student Complaints</a></p>	<p>NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.</p>
<p><a href="#">Student Rights and Responsibilities</a></p>	<p>All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.</p>

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**EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE**

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

**ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN**

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

**WELCOME TO CLASS**