

Astronomy 1104 Lab Syllabus Summer 2025

Lecture

Meeting Times Web — Location: online

Instructor: Anirban Bhattacharjee

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Course Description:

ASTRO 1103 is an introductory lab course for non-science majors. It provides a broad introduction to Astronomy including: (1) daily, monthly and yearly patterns in the sky; (2) basic physics of gravity, light, and atoms; (3) formation of the solar system; (4) stars and stellar evolution; (5) galaxies, cosmology, and the evolution of the Universe; and (6) the fundamental tenets of science and the scientific process. The goal of this course is to cover most of the areas of modern astronomy at a level which requires only basic mathematics.

Resources:**Required:**

Labs will be uploaded on to Blackboard and needs to be submitted on Blackboard.

Course Objectives:

We will follow the guidelines set forth by the American Astronomical Society, the National Science Education Standards, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the in-class survey. The goals for this class are as follows:

- Appreciate the scientific process, how it works, the notion that physical laws are universal, the elements of scientific theories, what they do and do not tell us.
- Develop familiarity with the night sky and how its appearance changes with time and position on Earth.
- Describe how data is collected from astronomical objects, and what quantities can be measured/inferred.
- Understand basic - yet crucial - physical laws, and the processes that govern astronomical quantities.
- Integrate concepts from related subjects to explain relationships (e.g., physics and math) between astronomical quantities.
- Infer the nature, structure and evolution of the Universe, and objects therein.

Instructional Philosophy of the Course:

The overarching goals of this course are for you to understand the nature of science through the eyes of astronomy; to understand the big ideas in astronomy; and to develop a lifelong interest in astronomy and current events surrounding astronomy. To meet these three goals, the course instructors have carefully designed a sequence of learning tasks and assessment procedures as outlined below.

-- *To get the best out of this course, if you are having problems with understanding the course material, is by emailing me or texting me through a free messenger service called WhatsApp. My phone number that you will need to add in your contact list is +13073997657. PLEASE DO NOT TEXT OR CALL ME DIRECTLY, I WONT BE ABLE TO RESPOND OR MIGHT NOT EVEN RECEIVE YOUR MESSAGE*

– **Missing more than 3 labs will result in an Automatic F**

Assessment and Grading:

In order to promote an active and collaborative learning environment, there will be no curve to assess grades. Each student will only be competing against themselves, and will be responsible for gaining the declarative knowledge and conceptual understanding for performance.

Grading Scheme	
Total Points	Grade
90–100	A
80–89.999...	B
70–79.999...	C
60–69.999...	D
below 59.999...	F

From the total points, letter grades will be assigned according to the table on the right. There will be no plus or minus grades assigned.

Students with disabilities: If you require any special accommodations to participate in the class or complete assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty:

University Student Conduct and Discipline defines Academic Dishonesty:

"The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. 1. Cheating includes:

- a. Copying from another students test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.

- f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty shall be the same as in other disciplinary actions, except that all academic dishonesty cases shall be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If, after reviewing the case, the faculty member believes that disciplinary action is necessary, he/she may recommend a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the academic department chair and, eventually, to the dean before imposition of the penalty. If the student does not accept the decision of the academic department chair or dean, the student may then follow the normal disciplinary procedures. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received substantive and procedural due process except as provided under Interim Disciplinary Action.

In addition, during the course of the semester, each student will be asked to carry out exercises in collaboration with other students. To nurture such an environment, we will consider any disruptive or disrespectful acts (such as talking on a cell phone, or texting during class) to be a form of cheating. We consider academic dishonesty to be a serious offense and the maximum punishments allowed will be pursued in all scenarios. This includes completing any quizzes, or scantron forms with the help of another student or for scantron forms completed by another student who is not you. If similar work is submitted, all parties involved will receive a zero for their assignment. Make your work your own, be original.

Lab Schedule

Week 1	Introduction, Syllabus, and Review
Week 1	Scales
Week 2	Kepler's Law
Week 2	Celestial Sphere
Week 2	Atoms and Telescopes
Week 3	Solar System
Week 3	Jupiter's moon
Week 3	Greenhouse Effect
Week 4	Extrasolar Planets
Week 4	Milky Way
Week 4	Galaxy Zoo
Week 4	Planetary geology