ASTRONOMY 1102 – Section 1

Instructor: Juhan Frank

Classes: MWF   12:40 – 1:30 PM, E137 Howe–Russell
Office Hours: MWF   1:30 – 2:30 PM, Nicholson 212–B

Text: ASTRONOMY: From the Earth to the Universe, 5th edition, by Jay Pasachoff, Saunders College Publishing, orlando, FL.

Textbook Assignment: This course covers some basic astronomy and physics, some observational tools and thechniques used by astronomers, a description of stars, their orgin and evolution, galaxies, and the universe at large scales. We shall begin by a survey of basic concepts, followed by a discussion of the properties of radiation (Chapter 4) and then jump to Chapter 21 (Our Star, the Sun) and subsequent chapters. I will cover in class all the material I consider important and refer to the text as required. You are responsible for reading the corresponding material in the text. It is advisable, whenever possible, that you read the material *before* you come to class, noting anything you do not understand. *Please ask questions during or after class.*

Homework Assignment: Homework exercises and problems will be assigned regularly. These will be either set by me or selected from the questions and problems at the end of the corresponding chapter. You are encouraged to review the short sections at the end of each chapter (CORRECTING MISCONCEPTIONS, SUMMARY AND OUTLINE, and KEYWORDS) and to attempt to answer the QUESTIONS. Some of the homework assignments need not be handed in since they will NOT be graded but are intended as practice for tests. The rest of the homework will be graded by a Teaching Assistant (TA) and returned to you in the alphabetically ordered slots on the 1st floor of the old wing of Nicholson (stand facing the door to Nicholson 124 and the homework return slots will be to your left). Homework will be taken into account for midterm and final grades. The maximum total score for the homework will be 50 points for midsemester and 100 points for the entire semester.

Tutoring: You are encouraged to use the office hours for any help you may need on the course material, problem solving, or any other course–related matters. Additional help by TAs may be available at certain times and locations to be announced later. My office is located on the second floor of Nicholson (the old wing) at the end of a narrow hallway marked "212" above the doorway. When you stand facing the door to my office marked "B", you will find a notice board on the wall to your left. Announcements, solutions to homework problems, answers to test questions and problems, and other course notices may be posted there.

Exams: There will be three 50 min tests on material covered since the previous test. These will be a mix of short questions on concepts and problems. I will hand out a study

guide listing the material included in the test, referring to the relevant sections of the text, and giving a few examples of questions. Some questions and problems may be similar to what you will find on the homework assignments. These tests are set and graded by me. The maximum score on these tests is 100 points. If for some emergency or other **serious** problem you miss a test, a makeup test *may* be arranged in exceptional cases. Note, however, that the makeup test will contain *additionally all new material covered since the regular test*.

Final Exam: There will be a 2–hour *comprehensive* test on material covered in the entire semester, also set and graded by me. The maximum score on the final test is 200 points.

Midterm Grade: A midterm grade will be asigned as a means to quantify your progress. The midterm score will be converted to a 100 point scale by averaging the results of two tests and homework according to the formula:

$$(T1 + T2 + HW)/2.5 \ ,$$

where each partial test is worth a maximum of 100 points and the midterm homework is worth up to 50 points. The midterm scores will then be analyzed statistically and curving will be introduced if necessary in order to assign grades.

Final Grade: The final score will be converted to a 100 point scale by averaging the results of all tests and homework according to the formula:

$$(T1 + T2 + T3 + FE + HW)/6 \ ,$$

where the partial tests and the homework are worth a maximum of 100 points each and the final exam is worth up to 200 points. The final scores will then be analyzed statistically and curving will be introduced if necessary in order to assign final grades.

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring 1999

Classes begin	Wed. Jan. 13		
M.L. King Day	Mon. Jan. 18		
Last Add	Thu. Jan. 21		
Last drop w/o W	Tue. Feb. 2		
FIRST TEST	Fri. Feb. 12	12:40–1:30PM	E137 Howe–Russell
Mardi Gras Holiday	Mon–Tue. Feb. 15–16		
SECOND TEST	Fri. Mar. 12	12:40–1:30PM	E137 Howe–Russell
Midsemester Grades	Tue. Mar. 16		
Last drop with W	Fri. Mar. 26		
Spring Break	Mon.–Fri. Mar. 29–Apr. 2		
THIRD TEST	Fri. Apr. 9	12:40–1:30PM	E137 Howe–Russell
Last Class	Fri. Apr. 30		
FINAL EXAM	Fri. May. 7	3:00–5:00PM	E137 Howe–Russell
Final Grades	Tue. May. 11		