

# Physics 304: Introduction to Astrophysics

Professor Mark Henriksen

Office: Physics 414

Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Lecture: MWF 9 – 9:50

Room: Math and Psychology 104

## Goals

To prepare students of astrophysics for more in depth courses. To give all students a general appreciation, not only of the field of astrophysics, but for the tools that are used to gain knowledge in this field.

## Grading

Assignments will be due every week and will count 20% of your grade. There will be two midterms worth 20% each. The final exam will count 40%.

## Required Textbook

"Introductory Astronomy and Astrophysics", by Zeilik and Gregory

The course content will generally follow the textbook and cover most of the material in the textbook. However, some textbook topics will not be covered in lectures (those that, in my experience, are not absolutely necessary) and supplementary material will be added to some selected topics.

## Student Preparation

You need to be comfortable with calculus and able to learn concepts from modern physics (if you haven't taken it) in order to understand the material in this course. Don't panic if it seems that a lot of new material is coming at you or if the pace of the course is fast (both are true). Excellent attendance, reading the textbook, and taking good notes, are all necessary to do really well in this course.

## Order of Chapters from the book in the Lectures

Notes: Prelude material will be integrated into the course lectures.

Lectures will begin with Part 2, chapter 8: The stars and continue through Part 4, chapter 27, The New Cosmology. After this, we will cover Part 1, The Solar System, if time allows.