

Physics 105, “Ideas in Astronomy”- Fall 2021

General Information

Instructor: Mark Henriksen
Office: Physics 414
Location: Math & Psychology 105
Time: MWF 11:00 -11:50 AM

Email: henrikse@umbc.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Course description

The purpose of this course is to provide undergraduate students with a general background in astronomy. Course content includes: the history of astronomy, the solar system, extrasolar planets, stars, galaxies, dark matter, dark energy, and cosmology.

Grading procedure

Grades will be calculated using the following template: (1) two midterm exams – 20% each, (2) homework – 30%, (3) final exam – 30%. Please note that exams will be based on lecture viewgraphs, homework, and exam review material.

Lectures and the Textbook

The lecture material amplifies and adds to the content in the textbook. All chapters of the textbook will be covered and students should read the textbook for the best experience. I use VGs in class that are filled with visual and written material. They serve as lecture notes for you to come back to later.

Textbook: Required Textbook: “The Cosmic Perspective”, Bennett et al., 3rd Edition, Pearson

Schedule of Exams

Midterm 1: October 13

Midterm 2: November 24

Final Exam: Unknown at this time

Homework Assignments

Homework will be due on the dates specified. Homework consists of problems in Quick Quiz (QQ) and a short essay question. The QQ can be tricky and it is best to look up each question's relevant material in the textbook.

1. Chapter 1 – 9/8
2. Chapter 2 – 9/13
3. Chapter 3 – 9/20
4. Chapter 4 – 9/27
5. Chapter 5 – 10/4
6. Chapter 6 – 10/11

Midterm 1 – 10/13 (Chapter 1 – 5)

7. Chapter 7 – 10/25
8. Chapter 8 – 11/1
9. Chapter 9 – 11/8

10. Chapter 10 – 11/15

11. Chapter 11 – 11/22

Midterm 2- 11/24 (Chapters 6 – 10)

12. Chapter 12 – 12/6

13. Chapters 14 – 12/13

Final Exam (all chapters with 11,12,14 emphasized)

Achieving Course Goals and Meeting Academic Expectations

Students should attend lectures, complete all homework assignments, and review for exams. The lecture has updated material that supplements the text.

Policy on late homework, missed Exams, and Exams

“Late homework will not be accepted.” Make up exams will not be possible.

Policy on Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is an important value at UMBC. By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC’s scholarly community in which everyone’s academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal.” Academic integrity will be enforced.

Student Support /Disability Services

“UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Services for students with disabilities

are provided for all students qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADAAA of 2009, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that would allow for students to have equal access and inclusion in all courses, programs, and activities at the University.”