

Syllabus for Astronomy 102 Fall 2004

Instructor: Dr. Rob Mohr **Class Time:** MW 5:30 - 6:45
Text: *Astronomy: From the Earth to the Universe* Pasachoff
Office: 351 Campbell Hall **Email:** rmohr@phy.uab.edu
Office Hours: MTWR 1:30 - 2:30 **Office Phone:** 934-8107
Final Exam Date and Time: Sunday August 8 5:30 – 8:00

This course is designed to introduce the students to several concepts about stars and all aspects of their lifetime. These topics include, but are not limited to, stellar formation and evolution, power sources for stars, variable stars, binary stars and stellar groups, and observational techniques.

All necessary material to receive an A in this class will come from the class lectures. As such, lecture notes will provide the best platform to study for all quizzes and exams. The book should be considered a supplement to the lecture notes, not the other way around.

Your final grade will be determined using the following scale:

Quiz Average:	50%
Homework Average:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

There will be an in class quiz (5 or 6 questions) every two or three weeks. You will be given 30 minutes to complete the quiz, which will be closed book and closed notes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you know ahead of time that you will not be present for a quiz, you must notify me one week in advance (NO EXCEPTIONS) and take the quiz early.

There will be two homework assignments during the semester. These will consist of four questions to be answered in essay format. Homeworks should be considered as an additional study resource for the final exam

You will be allowed one sheet of 8 ½ by 11 inch paper, front and back, to use during the final exam. This sheet may contain any information of your choosing. The short quizzes will be closed book and closed notes.

All short quizzes, as well as the final exam, are to be individual effort. Any

collaborations during such times will result in a zero for the assignment on the first offense and a second offense will result in being turned in for academic misconduct.

There will be no class on Monday September 6 (Labor Day Holiday) or Wednesday November 24 (Thanksgiving Holiday). Class will be held on all remaining Mondays and Wednesdays.

Tentative Schedule (Dates for quizzes are marked with an asterisk):

Week 1	August 23	Chapters 1 and 2
Week 2	August 30	Chapters 3 and 4
Week 3	September 6*	Chapters 22 and 23
Week 4	September 13	Chapters 24 and 25
Week 5	September 20	Chapters 25 and 26
Week 6	September 27*	Chapter 27
Week 7	October 4	Chapter 28
Week 8	October 11*	Chapter 29
Week 9	October 18	Chapter 30
Week 10	October 25*	Chapter 31
Week 11	November 1	Chapters 32 and 33
Week 12	November 8*	Chapter 34
Week 13	November 15	Chapters 34 and 35
Week 14	November 22	Additional Material / Current Events
Week 15	November 29	Review

AST 112- Astronomy of Stellar Systems Lab

Lab Hours: Monday 5:30pm-8:30pm
Location: CH461
Instructor: Christina Richey
Office: _____ (Astrophysics Lab in CH379)
Office Hours: by appointment
E-mail: crichey@phy.uab.edu

Content

- The demonstration conducted in labs will follow, as closely as possible, the progress of the lectures (AST 102).
- All demonstrations will be preceded by a discussion of the relevant ideas, and expressed in the context of topics introduced in the lecture.
- The demonstrations themselves will consist of observations of phenomena pertinent or related to the lecture material. These are not experiments, but *experiences*. The intent of the lab is to familiarize you with the ideas and methods presented in the demonstrations.
- The demonstrations will be followed by a brief review and discussion of your observations.

Grade

- 96% of your grade will be determined by lab reports. All 8 reports will contribute equally to the final grade and be worth 12% each.
- The remaining 4% of your grade will be determined by participation and attendance.

Miscellaneous

- Make-up labs will not be given. If necessary, the same lab will be instructed on Tuesday at the same time. The only way you may attend the other lab is through contacted me before your lab with a legitimate excuse.
- Copying information from a book, web site, someone else's report, or any other source, into your report without citation is considered **CHEATING**. This pertains to sentences as well as pictures and illustrations. Quoting short passages is OK, but you must include references, that is, you must tell me whence the passages came.
- Instances of cheating will be handled as follows:
 - First Offense-No credit on the report
 - Second Offense- No credit of the report and no participation/attendance credit.
 - Third Offense-An F for the course and you will be turned in for academic misconduct.

Lab Reports

- Lab reports should be placed within your lab notebook. They will be handed in at the end of each lab and be based on discussion and observations from the previous demonstration.
- The beginning of each lab should contain your name, the date on which the lab is occurring, and the name of the lab. This information should be supplied in the top right hand corner.
- The following sections should be within you report:
 - An **Introduction** with a brief review of the discussion (This may be supplied by taking notes during the beginning lecture.)
 - An **Experimental** section describing the equipment used and methods followed in the lab
 - A **Data/Results** section containing a description of your observations during lab.
 - A **Conclusion** section which should contain a brief description of what you have learned from the lab. This should be an *interpretation* of the results, not a retelling. Some question to think about when preparing the conclusions section include:
 - What does the data mean?
 - How was the data used to arrive at these results?
 - What assumptions, if any, were needed to make your results meaningful?