I. AST 220 Introduction to Astronomy - 4 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

This course covers the history of astronomy and the development of astronomical thought leading to the birth of modern astronomy and its most recent development. Emphasis is placed on the coverage of astronomical instruments and measuring technologies, the solar system, the Milky Way galaxy, important extra galactic objects and cosmology. Lab is required.

III. Prerequisite

As required by program.

IV. Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V. Course Objectives

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

A. Use a telescope
B. Describe the major objects in the solar system
C. Describe the major objects in the universe
D. Define the terminology used in astronomy
E. Identify the major contributors in astronomy
F. Describe the major events in the origin of the universe
G. Discuss current topics in space exploration

VI. Course Outline of Topics

A. History and the development of astronomy
B. Production and detection of the electromagnetic spectrum
C. Theory, construction and use of telescopes
D. The earth-moon system
E. The solar system
F. The sun’s structure
G. Properties and evolution of stars
H. Properties and evolution of galaxies
I. Structure and evolution of the universe

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

X. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.