



## ASTR 1303 01W – Stars and The Universe Online COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2018

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Jeff Wilson, Adjunct Faculty

**Office Location:** Off campus

**Office Phone:** None

**Virtual Office Hours:** Upon Request, regular time Thurs 8:30p-9:30p via YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom on D2L/Brightspace

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** 1-4 hours weekdays, 24 hours on weekends

**University Email Address:** [jeffrey.wilson@tamuc.edu](mailto:jeffrey.wilson@tamuc.edu)

Please include "ASTR Online" in the subject line.

### SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFO

- 1) Links to all youtube information are available in eCollege. However, if necessary, you can access the videos here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWP4siBWa8jhJK7QvX0ULC5jTte61BbxU>
- 2) If information in the syllabus differs from the syllabus, the syllabus overrides the video information.
- 3) SmartWork code: **55719** for course **TAMUC Physics 1303: Stars and the Universe Fall 2018**
- 4) Each assignment must be turned in as a **single file** (see CamScanner below). Assignments turned in as multiple files will not be accepted.

**Important disclaimer:** The school has migrated this semester from eCollege to D2L/Brightspace. The transition will be mostly smooth, but anytime a new system is put in place, there will be challenges. If you come across anything that is confusing, unclear, or inconsistent please notify me immediately by email so I can either fix it or notify the class of the issue. **Speak up!**

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Textbook(s) Required

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Astronomy, Stars and Galaxies, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, by Kay, Palen, & Blumenthal, ISBN 978-0-393-60332-3 (Full edition, not individual volumes)
- A subscription to SmartWork, an online astronomy homework and tutoring system (see more below) that goes with our textbook.

### ***How to Save Money***

The TAMUC Bookstore is selling new editions of the book in hard cover or a cheaper version in loose-leaf. Used or rental versions of the book are available from the bookstore or elsewhere on the web.

**IMPORTANT:** Used books and rentals often do not come with access to SmartWork, while new versions come with complementary access. You can purchase SmartWork access from <https://digital.wwnorton.com/astro5>. Choose your textbook option carefully: The total cost of book + SmartWork may be cheaper if you get a new textbook. Buying a used textbook will require the SmartWork be purchased separately, so the combined cost may be more. If you use an older version of the text, but it will be your responsibility to reconcile chapter, section, and/or page number differences from what I post in assignments or schedules. Also, you must ensure that any SmartWork access is for the latest version. Other note: The textbook is sold by individual volumes (one volume for each of the Astronomy courses) or the full textbook (covering both semesters). Smartwork5 is available only through the full textbook.

### **SmartWork Access Information**

Homework and Reading Quizzes must be completed using SmartWork. You are required to purchase a subscription to this site; an access code for a 365 day subscription comes included with any new textbook available through the bookstore, or it can be purchased separately. Our Enrollment Key in SmartWork is **55719** for course **TAMUC Physics 1303: Stars and the Universe Fall 2018**. SmartWork has support available at: [books.wwnorton.com/books/buysmartwork](https://books.wwnorton.com/books/buysmartwork)†.

### **Other Requirements/Software Required**

- A computer (PC or Mac) on which you can access the internet and install software
- Stellarium ([www.stellarium.org](http://www.stellarium.org)) – FREE planetarium software (optional)
- Access to a scanner or other means of turning in some written work and sketches.
- **Scientific calculator**

## **Course Description**

Astronomy is an ancient science with records dating back to the dawn of civilization. Despite this long history, it remains an exciting and vibrant area of ongoing study. In the coming years, astronomers may discover Earth-sized planets around other stars, see the first stars emerging from the cosmic dawn, and explore new physics in realms and laboratories that Earth-bound scientists can only dream of.

In this course, we will focus on studying stars and galaxies, as well as the natural laws and tools that astronomers use to study these distant objects. We'll begin by studying gravity, light, and telescopes. We'll then study the Sun as an example star and use it as a stepping stone to reach ever further into the Universe. Along the way we'll discover new worlds around other stars, peer into the hearts of black holes, witness collisions of galaxies, and piece together vital clues pointing to the origins of the Universe.

One big topic we will not cover is our own Solar System. If you want to know details about the eight planets, their moons, asteroids, meteors, and comets, you'll need to take ASTR 1304.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. You will be able to explain the characteristics of stars and their life cycles.
2. You will be able to identify the classes of galaxies and their basic properties.
3. You will be able to state evidence supporting astronomers' explanations of the origin and fate of the Universe.
4. You will be able to evaluate statements about astronomy using the scientific method.
5. You will be able to identify constellations, stars, and deep-sky objects visible from Texas.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

#### **Course Prerequisites:**

None, though you should be comfortable with basic algebra.

### **Instructional Methods**

#### **How This Course Is Organized**

This course will be organized by units. Most units will last just one week, but some units will cover multiple weeks. Some units cover one chapter in the text, some cover multiple chapters. You should check the course page often to see what activities and assignments are due during the week.

#### **What Should You Do First?**

After reading this syllabus, you should proceed to the course page on LearningStudio, watch the introductory video on the course homepage, and then proceed to Unit 1: Introductions. Complete the activities and assignments listed under Unit 1. Due dates are specified on Learning Studio.

#### **How Should You Proceed for Each Unit?**

1. All activities and assignments for a unit will be listed on the unit's main page on LearningStudio. The unit home pages are found in the left navigation bar of LearningStudio. A course announcement will be made when each unit is available.
2. Each unit will have a short introductory video explaining the assignments for that unit.
3. You should complete any reading assignments and reading quizzes first (note the reading quizzes are not for grades).
4. After completing reading quizzes, you may listen to any online minilectures listed within the unit and complete the associated response questions.
5. Complete any other listed activities and assignments given in the weekly unit.

6. If there is a Stellarium activity under the unit, be sure to complete it by the deadline.
7. Even after completing the unit, you may want to check for any new content (such as new minilectures or external links) that I may post in order to clear up any confusing topics.
8. No new assignments will be posted in a unit after the announcement that the unit is available.

## HOW THE COURSE WILL WORK

### Instructional Methods / Activities / Assessments

#### *Course pace*

While I realize that some online students prefer to complete a course as fast as possible and others like to wait several weeks and then do as much work as possible, these methods won't work with this course. Student interaction is a crucial part of learning, and we can't interact if no two students are on the same part of the course.

The course is broken up into 12 units. *The onus is on you to keep up with deadlines through eCollege*. eCollege has a Course Checklist tool to help you keep track of what you have and have not completed. If you go to the Course Home page and click on "Course Checklist" at the bottom you can access this tool.

#### *Participation*

Because this course is an online course, participation options are limited. However, if the need arises, we may use threaded discussions on eCollege and live meetings using Adobe Connect on eCollege. These will not be required but may help you to ask questions in an interactive manner. If email threads get too long, I may elect to move discussions to this forum.

#### *SmartWork: Reading Quizzes and Homework*

SmartWork is an online astronomy homework and tutoring tool. Its advantages are that SmartWork will give you instant feedback on whether you got a question right or wrong and provide you with hints and tools to better learn the material.

I suggest the following strategy for learning the information: Skim the chapter in the text, looking at pictures, unit titles, and word definitions. At the end of the chapter is a brief chapter summary you should also read over. On occasion, I may post minilectures, that cover content not covered well in the textbook. Finally, re-read the chapter, in more depth this time.

Homework assignments will be assigned for each unit. These are intended to be the "capstone" of the unit; i.e. they should usually be the last thing you do in a unit. If you do the homework and find you still don't understand something, you definitely want to ask me about that topic in office hours or by email.

#### *Turning in Work*

When you turn in an assignment to me, **it must be in a single file**. You have many options at your disposal to do this. You can copy all pages into a single doc or pdf file. You can take photos and add to doc or pdf files. **Note:** If you use images, please be sure to convert your

file to PDF as the file sizes with photos can get very large. You can also use the tool CamScanner, a free tool to help convert digital copies. Do whatever works best for you, but make sure I only get a single file per assignment. Note that if multiple assignments are due, need to turn in 1 file per exercise.

Also, note that there are relatively few assignments. Getting a “0” on any assignment will have a dramatic impact on your grade!

### ***SmartWork Grading Policy***

The grading policy for each SmartWork assignment are shown in each assignment. Late homeworks are penalized 10% per day. After 7 days, you will earn 0 points. The final assignment, however, must be turned in by the due date. No late work will be accepted since it is end of semester.

The following are considered cheating and will not be tolerated: Directly copying text from a website or other printed source, obtaining copies of solutions to homework questions (whether from past students or other sources), directly copying another student’s work, etc. See the section on “Academic Integrity” below for full details.

### ***Stellarium Grading Policy***

Stellarium work is to be turned in via the appropriate submission folder in D2L/Brightspace. I will not accept them via email unless I notify you otherwise. As stated above, you must turn in your work in a single file. I will accept late work with a penalty of 10% per day. After 7 days, you will earn 0 points.

### **Mini-Lectures and Response Questions**

Within each unit, I will upload mini-lectures that you will be able to view. These videos are approximately 15 minutes each and will focus on one or two important points each.

Each video will be paired with a minilecture response activity on LearningStudio. The responses contain a few thought questions that allow you to check your learning to see if you understood the material and thought processes covered in the mini-lecture. These are an opportunity for you to begin to think about and work with the concepts before they show up on homework or exams without the pressure of getting a right or wrong answer. Some questions will be easy, some hard, and some will require you to put together more than one concept in order to figure out an answer.

The minilecture responses are not graded but allow you to check your learning in a no-pressure environment. Correct answers and brief explanations for the answers should be visible after you complete the response questions.

There will be material covered in the reading that I will not cover in minilectures but yet will expect you to know. If a topic is not covered in a minilecture but appears on a reading quiz and/or homework, it may well appear again.

**Exams:**

Three online exams will be given during the semester through eCollege: the first after Unit 5: Telescopes, the second after Unit 9: Star Death, and the third at the end of the term. For the exams you may use whatever materials you like (text, homework solutions, internet searches, etc). However, the exams are *timed* and may only be taken once, so you will want to study the material well before taking the exam. The exams are not officially cumulative, but astronomy is a very intertwined science and topics covered on exam one will be required knowledge to answer questions on exam three.

**Labs:**

Astronomy labs are a separate class (Astr 1103); you do not need to be enrolled in a laboratory section to earn credit in this course. You should speak with your academic advisor to determine if signing up for a lab section is right for your degree plan. You can take the lab courses in future semesters; they do not need to be taken concurrently. At the present, we do not offer online labs for astronomy.

**Extra Credit: Observatory Visit, Science Museum Visit, or a Planetarium Show:**

If you live close to Commerce, you will have the opportunity for an optional visit to the Commerce Observatory (about 5 miles south of Commerce). If you attend, simply write up what you learned/observed and have the leader sign and date your paper to prove you attended.

You can also earn extra credit by attending a planetarium show. The A&M-Commerce Planetarium also exhibits several different shows every Friday night at 7pm and 8pm. Tickets are \$4 for children and students with student ID, \$4.50 for senior citizens, and \$5 for adults. Go to <http://www.tamuc.edu/planetarium/> for a current listing of shows. If you attend a show, tell the staff that you are a member of this class. They will make a note that you attended. Then email me two paragraphs: one summarizing the show, and a second telling me something specific about the show that you found interesting and why. If and only if you complete both of these steps, you will get extra credit.

If you are not near Commerce or cannot make it to these opportunities, you can visit a science-themed museum and send me a copy of your ticket stub and a short paragraph describing an interesting exhibit you saw at the museum.

You may also do observing exercises. There is a list of extra credit viewing exercises listed in a document called 'Observing Projects.doc' stored in the Doc Sharing folder on eCollege. Most will require at least minimal observation so you will need clear skies. Don't wait until the last days and expect clear skies – start early!

**All extra credits are to be turned in to me via email.**

**Extra Credit Terms, Conditions, and Caveats:**

You may only earn extra credit once, though you are welcome to attend as many of the observatory and planetarium events as you like. All extra credit work must be turned in on

or before the last day of class. Family of any age is welcome to the planetarium shows; be sure to check on the age-appropriateness of shows (all are fine for all audiences, but some are aimed at children and some at adults). You will receive 1 point of credit added to your final grade for each extra credit attempt (up to a maximum of 5 pts). Observing exercises may be up to 2 point a piece depending on which one you attempt (ask beforehand if you want to know the weight for an exercise).

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

I *strongly* encourage you to check out the following resources to see if you are likely to succeed in an online course. This course will require just as much work as a face-to-face course. If you are uncertain, you are always welcome to switch sections to join our brick-and-mortar version of Astr 1303 (see the Schedule of Classes for meeting times and course numbers).

- [What Makes a Successful Online Student?](#)<sup>†</sup>
- [Self-Evaluation for Potential Online Students](#)<sup>†</sup>

## Grading

Grading will be done on an absolute scale with no competition. If you all earn an A, you all get an A. I may “curve” grades for specific assignments and/or final course grades at my discretion, but your percentage earned will never go down if I apply such a curve. Your current grades will be available through the gradebook on eCollege. Note that the gradebook on SmartWork is *not* official. Also, SmartWork is a separate product not connected to eCollege. I must import the grades manually. As such, I will only update eCollege with your SmartWork grades periodically.

*I will entertain other ideas for extra credit, but I reserve the right to limit you to the extra credit described on the previous page.*

Grading is weighted by assignment using the following weights:

Assignment Type	Weighting
Homework Assignments	25%
Exams	60% (20% each)
Stellarium Activities	15%

The grading scale is:

90% to 100%	A
80% to 89.9%	B
70% to 79.9%	C
60% to 69.9%	D

Below 60%	F
-----------	---

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**Browser support**

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

**Desktop Support**

<b>Browser</b>	<b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>	<b>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</b>
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A



## Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)  
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.  
Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.  
Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (*version 17 or later*) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
  - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Brightspace Support

Need Help?

### Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



## System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

## Interaction with Instructor Statement

**Email:** I can be reached by email at [jeffrey.wilson@tamuc.edu](mailto:jeffrey.wilson@tamuc.edu). It may take me up to 24 hours to send you a response (48 hours on the weekend or holidays), but most often I will get back with you within the hour. If you don't hear back from me in 24 hours, please send another email. I assume you check your campus email daily, so if I send out a class email, I'll assume you read it.

**Office Hours:** Office hours are virtual. My default time is Thursday 9pm-10pm, but I've made a survey available on eCollege to change the day/time if necessary. If you cannot make that time, I can be available upon request. My contact will be through Adobe connect, eCollege's Virtual Office or through the Live tool. Office hours are times that I set aside when I promise to be available so that you can contact me with any questions about the course real time. During office hours, you can ask questions about the course material, ask about homework, see your current grade, or ask other questions about the class or astronomy in general.

Office hours work best if you have your textbooks, class notes, and homework sets with you.

If you want to talk but cannot come during office hours, please contact me by email in order to set up an individual appointment. By setting an appointment, you both guarantee that I will be in my office (or online) and that I will have plenty of time to talk with you.

**Facebook:** Please don't try to friend me on Facebook or other social networking sites while taking this class. I prefer not to spam you with cat videos, and you won't have to worry about me trolling you.

## Netiquette

I expect all students to behave to basic standards of etiquette on the web (and in real life). Abusive or inappropriate comments will be removed and earn a reprimand; any additional lapses could result in disciplinary action. For a simple guide to netiquette, see <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>.

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies

### Examination Policy

- For the online exams you may use whatever static materials you like, including your text, homework solutions, internet searches (as long as you do not cut-and-paste), etc. But see the next point...
- You must work on the exam alone – you may not discuss the exam with other students prior to the due date, you may not use any sort of communication like email, Skype, texting, ChaCha, talking, writing, semaphore, etc., etc., etc. to communicate with any other human during or after the exam.
- When an exam is assigned, you must complete the exam in the allotted time.
- The exams are *timed* and *may only be taken once*, so you will want to study the material well before taking the exam.

### “Attendance” Policy

This class will have no required synchronous (live online) meetings. You are encouraged to participate in online discussions when they occur.

### Assignment Policy and Due Dates

All assignments are posted on eCollege. Assignments and due dates will be posted in the main page for each unit. Submission requirements for each assignment will also be given on that page.

### Late Work

Late assignments are penalized 10% for each day late (including weekends); after 7 days assignments will receive a zero. Late exams will receive a zero unless approved beforehand.

### Dropping The Course

A student may drop this course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

### Incompletes

I only offer incompletes in extraordinary circumstances. Any student interested in an incomplete should contact me as soon as possible after the situation arises, and should keep in mind that I am not required to give you an incomplete and so may not offer you the opportunity. You should also know that you only have access to an eCollege course for two weeks following the final day of term.

### Administrative Withdrawal

Although I have the right to drop you for excessive absences, I won't do so. You have a right to get an F if you decide to quit working but don't withdraw.

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

**RULES, RULES, RULES (UNIVERSITY POLICIES)**

**Academic integrity**

A major goal of this and most every university course is for you to learn and appreciate subject material. Academic dishonesty (“cheating”) actively prevents you from achieving this goal. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously by the University and by me, and ***will not be tolerated.*** (See the TAMU-C Code of Student Conduct and the TAMU-C Procedures A 13.04, 13.12, 13.31, and 13.32.)

This conduct is not only considered wrong in this course and at this University, but also in the real world. Engaging in these activities will get you fired from a job and prevent you from getting another job.

Unethical student conduct includes:

- **Plagiarism**, or copying the words of others with the intent of making it look like your own. Whether you use someone else's phrase word for word, or whether you try and change a few words, or even if you just borrow someone else's original idea and don't give them credit, that's unethical. Use your own words whenever possible, give credit to wherever you got an idea, and put direct quotes inside quotation marks.
- **Cheating** involves trying to trick me or others into thinking you did work that you really didn't do, or into thinking you know what you really don't know. This can include stealing exams, changing your answers on a graded exam or assignment and claiming it was graded wrongly, putting your name on someone else's homework, and so on.
  - ***Searching the Internet for homework solutions and cutting/pasting the text you find is considered cheating.*** Searching the Internet for help on a topic is okay. For example, suppose a question asks "Describe the life cycle of a star that has the same mass as the sun." Typing that phrase into Google and cutting and pasting the text in the answer box is considered cheating. Typing "star life cycles" into Google, reading a few web pages, and summarizing the information in your own words is not cheating.
  - ***Borrowing a previous student's homework, exams, or solution sets is considered cheating.*** "Borrowing" includes looking at someone's submitted homework, screen shots, stealing returned homeworks, and so on.
- **Collusion** is working with another person to cheat. This can include copying someone else's answers to an exam or assignment, doing work for another student, buying or otherwise obtaining homework/exam solutions from any source online or off-line, or any other instance of multiple people engaging in some form of cheating or dishonesty. Working with other students on an assignment is fine as long as everyone contributes and each student does their own work.
- **Any other activity that, to a reasonable person, looks wrong.** If you have any doubt whatsoever whether a certain action is considered dishonest, please ask me *before* engaging in the activity. There is no need to be embarrassed about asking, and I won't penalize you for asking! In this class, if you follow the maxim "it's easier to beg forgiveness than to ask permission", don't expect forgiveness to be forthcoming.

***If you engage in academic dishonesty during any graded activity, you will receive no credit for that activity. More than one instance of dishonesty by a student will result in automatic failure of the course and referral of the student for disciplinary action.***

For further information, search the Texas A&M-Commerce website for “academic integrity policy”.

SmartWork and eCollege provide me with tools that check for common forms of online cheating and collusion. These include, but aren’t limited to: time stamps, location stamps, and automated comparison of essay answers. I will use these tools.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The course will cover many of the topics outlined below. The dates will be posted in the online classroom and are subject to change, so pay attention to announcements on eCollege for final due dates.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Block: Tools of the Astronomer**

- Unit 1: Introductions (Aug 27 – Sep 9); *due date on Sept 9.*
- Unit 2: The Scientific Method & Astronomy (Sep 3 - Sep 9)
- Unit 3: Radiation (Sep 10 - Sep 16)
- Unit 4: Spectroscopy (Sep 17 - Sep 23)
- Unit 5: Telescopes (Sep 24 – Sep 30)
- **Exam 1: Week of: 10/1 - 10/4**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Block: Stars**

- Unit 6: The Sun (Oct 1 - Oct 7)
- Unit 7: Properties of Stars (Oct 8 - Oct 19); *2 week duration and Friday due date*
- Unit 8: Stellar Evolution (Oct 20 - Oct 31); *1.5 week duration and Wednesday due date*
- Unit 9: Star Death (Nov 1 - Nov 11); *Note 1.5 week duration*
- **Exam 2: Week of: 11/12 - 11/13**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Block: Galaxies and the Universe**

- Unit 10: The Milky Way and its Neighbors (Nov 12 - Nov 18)
- Thanksgiving Break – 11/19-11/23. *No assignments due*
- Unit 11: Cosmology (Nov 19 - Nov 25)
- Unit 12: The Big Bang (Nov 26 – Dec 5); *1.5 week duration and Wednesday due date*
- **Exam 3: 12/5 - 12/7**

***Any extra credit and/or late work (except exams) (that is still within the allowable late time limit) is due on the last official day of class unless otherwise announced. No late work will be accepted past this date (even with a penalty)!***

***The last day for Fall 2018 is Dec 7.***



Last Update: 5/18/2018