



## **ASTR 1103 01L: Introductory Astronomy Lab**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

Course Meeting Time: Tuesday 3:30-5:50

Course Meeting Place: Room 107 or Planetarium (See schedule)

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Kent Montgomery

Office Location: McFarland Science Building Room 343

Office Hours:

- MTWR 11 am - Noon
- Appointments and Zoom talks available if arranged ahead of time

Office Phone: (903) 886-5488

University Email Address: Kent.montgomery@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours (business days only)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: None

### **Course Description**

*Hours: 1*

*This lab course is designed to give students a hands-on approach to learning about stars and galaxies using techniques similar to those used by astronomers. Laboratory activities will include using the planetarium to learn the names and locations of stars and constellations, hands on experiments, and computer simulations.*

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. You will collaborate with fellow students on laboratory experiences.
2. You will collect accurate data during laboratory experiences.
3. You will evaluate the results of experiments in light of your collected data.
4. You will identify the primary constellations, stars, and deep sky objects of each season

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **How to Get Started**

#### **myLEO Online Access Information**

This course uses myLEO Online, the new learning management system at East Texas A&M. All materials, assignments, and resources will be made available through this system. To access this course, go to:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

<http://myleoonline.tamuc.edu>. Log in with your myLEO account and password. Then click on the link to [Spring 2026 Introductory Astronomy Lab](#) to get to our course.

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

This course is organized by weeks. You should listen in class and check the course page on D2L often to see what activities and assignments are coming due.

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

After attending class and reading this syllabus, you should proceed to the course page on D2L and familiarize yourself with the resources. Then show up on the first day of lab, which is **Tuesday January 20** (second week of classes).

If you are asked to complete laboratory safety training, you should complete the course on D2L as soon as possible. I have no control over who must take the training. Why do you have to take safety training for this course? Stars are very hot and can continue to smolder for billions of years if left unattended.

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

You will need to be able to access myLEO Online, also known as D2L or Brightspace, and be able to use it. You should be able to read PDF documents. You should be able to create Microsoft Word documents (.docx) or plain text files. You should have minimal knowledge of Microsoft Excel. You must be familiar with Internet usage and safe browsing. You need to be able to watch YouTube videos on a computer.

### **Instructional Methods**

#### **Lab Packets**

Each individual or group will receive a lab packet on the day of the experiment to be turned in after your group completes the lab. Your group can earn up to 10 points on this packet, equally weighted based on completion of the experiment, evidence of thought in answers, and correctness of your interpretation. Since labs often do not produce exactly the expected results, significant leeway will be given on the results. Main points: be neat, answer all questions, and make sure that your answers show evidence of thought and tying what we've covered in lecture into the lab.

The size of a group will vary, from individual work in the planetarium up to 4 or 5 people in room 107.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is required at each lab meeting, as make-up labs are generally not possible. You will receive full credit for being present at the scheduled lab start time and remaining through the completion of the lab. Tardiness and/or early departures will result in half credit for attendance. Absences due to illness or other valid excuses will be excused if proper documentation is provided. Examples of valid excuses are listed under section 1.3 of the [ETAMU Class Attendance Policy](#).

#### **Participation**

Each laboratory section has a maximum of 10 participation points you can earn. You can earn points by arriving to lab on time, remaining until your lab group is finished with the experiment, and by assisting your lab partners in the experiment. "Supervising" your lab group by watching everyone else work and not contributing to either the work or the thought process does not count as participation. Points are awarded at the instructor's discretion.

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## Night Sky Exam

During the last week of class, you will be tested on your knowledge of the night sky, including being able to name indicated constellations, stars, and deep-sky objects, and to recall basic information about these objects. This exam counts as 20% of your course grade.

*If you are certified as needing special accommodations for examinations, please see me privately well before the exam with your letter of accommodation from the Student Disability Resources and Services office.*

## Extra Credit

No extra credit is offered. If you participate in labs, you will not need it.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students who do well in this course share most of the following common habits:

- Arriving a couple minutes early for class and not leaving until class is dismissed.
- Not using phones, tablets, or computers during class unless required by the lab
- Checking MyLeo often for announcements and assignments
- Taking responsibility for their own grade.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Attendance	20%
Participation	20%
Lab Packets	40%
Night Sky Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

## Course Outline/Calendar

The schedule below is subject to change.

*Date*

*Lab*

*Room*

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<b>Tues Jan 13</b>	NO LAB FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES	NO LAB
<b>Tues Jan 20</b>	Introduction & Telescope Lab	Sci 107
<b>Tues Jan 27</b>	Winter Skies	Planetarium
<b>Tues Feb 3</b>	Kepler's Laws	Sci 107
<b>Tues Feb 10</b>	Spectroscopy Lab	Sci 107
<b>Tues Feb 17</b>	Spring Skies	Planetarium
<b>Tues Feb 24</b>	Luminosity Lab	Sci 107
<b>Tues Mar 3</b>	Summer Skies	Planetarium
<b>Tues Mar 10</b>	NO LAB: SPRING BREAK	NO LAB
<b>Tues Mar 17</b>	Hertzprung-Russell Diagram	Sci 107
<b>Tues Mar 24</b>	Fall Skies	Planetarium
<b>Tues Mar 31</b>	Transiting Planets Lab	Sci 107
<b>Tues Apr 7</b>	Southern Hemisphere Skies	Planetarium
<b>Tues Apr 14</b>	Citizen Science: Zooniverse	Sci 107
<b>Tues Apr 21</b>	Night Sky Review	Planetarium
<b>Tues Apr 28</b>	Night Sky Exam	Planetarium

#### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

##### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

##### 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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

##### COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

##### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

##### CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

##### Technology-Related Issues

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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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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#### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

##### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

##### **Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

##### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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#### **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

##### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

##### **Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:**

- Course name and subject in the subject line
  - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
  - Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
  - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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#### **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

##### **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.

##### **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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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

##### **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

##### **Academic Integrity**

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

#### **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

#### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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**

East Texas A&M University  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)  
Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

#### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

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

#### **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

#### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

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