

**ASTRONOMY 103--INTRODUCTORY  
ASTRONOMY**  
COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS--SPRING TERM 2008

- INSTRUCTOR:** Dick Ehrman
- PHONE:** Cell: 429-1327 (if no answer leave message)
- E-MAIL:** [richard.ehrman@doane.edu](mailto:richard.ehrman@doane.edu) (Note: I don't check my e-mail every day, so if your e-mail is particularly important, it may be a good idea to leave me a phone message as well.)
- MEETING TIME:** Wednesday nights March 19-May 14, 2008, from 6:00-10:30 PM.
- TEXT:** Maran, Stephen. 2004. *Astronomy for Dummies*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) IDG Books Worldwide, Inc. 310 p.
- USEFUL SITES:** The internet is fast becoming a repository of an incredible amount of information for astronomy or any other subject. Feel free to use any website you find which is helpful; here are some of my favorites:

Astronomy Magazine: [www.astronomy.com](http://www.astronomy.com)  
Astronomy Now: [www.astronomynow.com](http://www.astronomynow.com)  
NASA: [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)  
Astronomy Today: [www.astronomytoday.com](http://www.astronomytoday.com)

All of these will be helpful, but if you're adventurous and have some time, just go to your favorite search engine and type in "astronomy," and see what you get! In addition, from time to time I'll assign you to look at certain websites as part of your normal work.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topics</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>
March 19	Welcome and introductions The basics & history Taking a look at the universe	Ch. 1 Ch. 3
March 26	The earth/moon system Visitors (of the inanimate kind)	Ch. 5 Ch. 4

Apr. 2	<b>EXAM I</b> The Solar System—the terrestrial planets	Ch. 6
Apr. 9	<b>NO CLASS</b> —I'll be in Kansas City	
Apr. 16	The Solar System—the gas giants, Pluto, asteroids The Sun	Ch. 7, 8, 9 Ch. 10
Apr. 23	<b>EXAM II</b> Stars	Ch. 11
Apr. 30	Galaxies Black holes, quasars, and other weirdos	Ch. 12 Ch. 13
May 7	Dark matter (or is it just a cosmic fudge?) (Ending with a) Big Bang SETI (say what?)	Ch. 15 Ch. 16 Ch. 14
May 14	<b>EXAM III</b> Course evaluation	

**NOTE:** The course outline provided above is not set in stone. My schedule will often force me to revise the class schedule. If such is the case, I'll give you as much advance warning as is possible.