

**ASTRONOMY 103–
INTRODUCTORY ASTRONOMY**
Spring, 2008–ONLINE
COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Dick Ehrman

PHONE: Cell: 429-1327 (if no answer leave message)

E-MAIL: richard.ehrman@doane.edu (Note: I may not check my e-mail every day, so if your e-mail is particularly important, it may be a good idea to contact me by phone as well.)

MEETING TIME: **ONLINE CLASS;** no regular class meetings.
INITIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Wednesday, March 19, 2008, from 5:30-6:00 PM in Room 303 or wherever assigned. Spring term runs from March 17-May 17.

TEXT: Maran, Stephen. 2004. *Astronomy for Dummies*. (2nd 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. Your classwork throughout the term will involve visiting a number of assigned websites. However, please feel free to use any website you find which is helpful; here are some of my favorites:

Astronomy Magazine: www.astronomy.com

Astronomy Now: www.astronomynow.com

NASA: www.nasa.gov

Astronomy Today: 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," or any other pertinent topic, and see what you get!

CLASS SCHEDULE

As already specified, this is an online class and as such there is no “schedule” per se w/ lectures, class meetings, tests, etc. However, rather than dump all of the material on you up front, I plan to provide you with assignments on pertinent topics on a more-or-less weekly basis throughout the term. An approximate schedule follows—it is provided more as a guide so you can keep up with your text reading and online work than anything else. You can vary your schedule at your own discretion, but just remember that ALL assigned work is due by the end of the term, in this case, May 17, 2008.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Week 1	Welcome and introductions The basics & history Taking a look at the universe Assignment 1 (10 pts.)	Ch. 1 Ch. 3
Week 2	The earth/moon system Visitors (of the inanimate kind) Assignment 2 (20 pts.)	Ch. 5 Ch. 4
Week 3	The Solar System—the terrestrial planets Assignment 3 (10 pts.)	Ch. 6
Week 4	The Solar System—the gas giants, Pluto, asteroids The Sun Assignment 4 (20 pts.)	Ch. 7, 8, 9 Ch. 10
Week 5	Stars Assignment 5 (20 pts.)	Ch. 11 Ch. 13
Week 6	Galaxies Assignment 6 (10 pts.)	Ch. 12
Week 7	Dark matter (or is it just a cosmic fudge?) (Ending with a) Big Bang SETI (say what?) Assignment 7 (10 pts.)	Ch. 15 Ch. 16 Ch. 14
Week 8-9	Complete all assigned work Course evaluation ALL ASSIGNED WORK DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 17!!!	