

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

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dick Ehrman

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

**“OFFICE”:** Of course, I don’t have an assigned office space, but if you need to see me in person, I am normally at Doane-Lincoln on Wednesday evenings by about 5:00 PM in either Room 303 or 305, and I normally have lab or am working on Saturday mornings from 8:30 AM to about noon, usually in Room 305. Feel free to stop by and visit me at either of these times, otherwise, specific appointments can be scheduled.

**E-MAIL:** [richard.ehrman@doane.edu](mailto: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, June 4, 2008, from 5:30-6:00 PM in Room 303 or wherever assigned. **NOTE THE DATE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING—I’m out of town the first week of classes so we won’t meet until June 4.** The summer term runs from May 26-July 26.

**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. 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](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," 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 “weekly” Assignments 1-7 are due on the specified dates if you wish to have me give you feedback; your remaining work (essay exam, term paper/project) is due by the end of the term, in this case, July 26, 2008.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
June 7	Welcome and introductions The basics & history Taking a look at the universe <b>Assignment 1 (10 pts.)</b>	Ch. 1 Ch. 3
June 14	The earth/moon system Visitors (of the inanimate kind) <b>Assignment 2 (20 pts.)</b>	Ch. 5 Ch. 4
June 21	The Solar System—the terrestrial planets <b>Assignment 3 (10 pts.)</b> <b>WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS 1-3 DUE FOR COMMENT!!!!</b>	Ch. 6
June 28	The Solar System—the gas giants, Pluto, asteroids The Sun <b>Assignment 4 (20 pts.)</b>	Ch. 7, 8, 9 Ch. 10
July 5	Stars  <b>Assignment 5 (20 pts.)</b>	Ch. 11 Ch. 13
July 12	Galaxies <b>Assignment 6 (10 pts.)</b>	Ch. 12
July 19	Dark matter (or is it just a cosmic fudge?) (Ending with a) Big Bang SETI (say what?) <b>Assignment 7 (10 pts.)</b> <b>WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS 4-7 DUE FOR COMMENT!!!!</b> <b>LAST DATE TO SUBMIT ESSAY EXAM FOR COMMENT!!!</b>	Ch. 15 Ch. 16 Ch. 14
July 26	Complete all assigned work Course evaluation <b>ALL REMAINING WORK DUE</b> <b>NO LATER THAN JULY 26!!!</b>	