ASTRONOMY 103 —
INTRODUCTORY ASTRONOMY
Winter 2013—ONLINE
Lincoln Campus

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.)

NOTE: Due to recent policy changes at Doane, you MUST submit ALL coursework in online courses via your Doane email account or through Blackboard. Since much of the communication in this class will take place via email, please make sure that your Doane account is activated and functioning before beginning this class.

“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 scheduled class evenings (usually Tuesdays) by about 4:30 PM in either Room 305 or 303, and I normally have lab or am working on Saturday mornings from 8:30 AM to about noon, again usually in Room 305 or 303. Feel free to stop by and visit me at either of these times, otherwise, specific appointments can be scheduled.

MEETING TIME: ONLINE CLASS; no regular class meetings.

INITIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, from 5:00-6:00 PM. Other meetings can be arranged as necessary or requested. The Autumn term runs from Oct. 21-Dec. 21, 2013.


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 favorite general sites:

Astronomy Magazine: www.astronomy.com
Astronomy Now: www.astronomynow.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, it is expected that students can successfully complete the class if they complete 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 and the short essay exam are due on the specified dates if you wish to have me give you feedback; your remaining work (multiple choice exam, term paper/project) is due by the end of the term (i.e. Saturday of Week 9).

REMEMBER: There are FOUR (4) required activities for this class:

1. The seven (7) weekly assignments;
2. The short essay exam;
3. The multiple choice exam; and
4. The term paper or project.

I will provide all assignments and instructions via email within one day of the organizational meeting. The assignments and instructions, along with supporting material, will also be posted on Doane’s Blackboard site; instructions for accessing this material will be provided at the organizational meeting.

You may also do extra credit work as outlined in the course description. ALL COURSEWORK (the 4 required activities and any extra credit work) is due by the end of the term. IF YOU DO NOT TURN IN ALL REQUIRED WORK BY THE END OF THE TERM, YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE THE POINTS EARNED ON THOSE ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN.

SCHEDULE (suggested; you can complete your assignments at your own pace)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (End of Week)</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26 (Week 1)</td>
<td>Welcome and introductions</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<td>The basics &amp; history</td>
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<td>Taking a look at the universe</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 (10 pts.)</td>
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Nov. 2  The earth/moon system  Ch. 5
(Week 2)  Visitors (of the inanimate kind)  Ch. 4
Assignment 2 (20 pts.)

Nov. 9  The Solar System—the terrestrial planets  Ch. 6
(Week 3)  Assignment 3 (10 pts.)
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS 1-3 DUE FOR COMMENT!

Nov. 16  The Solar System—the gas giants, Pluto, asteroids  Ch. 7, 8, 9
(Week 4)  The Sun  Ch. 10
Assignment 4 (20 pts.)

Nov. 23  Stars  Ch. 11
(Week 5)  Assignment 5 (20 pts.)

Nov. 30  Galaxies  Ch. 13
(Week 6)  Assignment 6 (10 pts.)

Dec. 7  Dark matter (or is it just a cosmic fudge?)  Ch. 15
(Week 7)  (Ending with a) Big Bang  Ch. 16
SETI (say what?)  Ch. 14
Assignment 7 (10 pts.)
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS 4-7 DUE FOR COMMENT!!!!
LAST DATE TO SUBMIT ESSAY EXAM FOR COMMENT!!!

Dec. 14-21  Complete all assigned work
(Week 8-9)  Course evaluation
MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM, TERM PAPER/PROJECT, AND ALL REMAINING WORK DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 21!!!!
*REMEMBER* that you need to turn in all 4 required activities (the 7 weekly assignments, the essay exam, multiple choice exam AND a term paper/project)!!!