PHY393 Introduction to Astrophysics
Fall 2010 Tuesday Friday 1:40 pm – 2:55 pm, WSB 9

Professor

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Office hours:
Monday 2:00-4:00
Wednesday 3:00-5:00
and by appointment

Course Objectives

Students in this course will become knowledgeable in the concepts and mathematical techniques used in astronomical topics outside of our solar system, as listed in the course schedule. Students will gain the foundation necessary to take upper level astronomy and astrophysics courses. Students will also learn about the topics that astronomers are currently researching today.

Textbook

The textbook for this course will be *Astronomy: A Physical Perspective* by Marc Kutner.

Grading Format

Your course grade will be determined in the following way:
50% Tests (The lowest test score will be dropped)
25% Final Exam
25% Homework

Tests

There will be four tests, held on the following Fridays: 9/24, 10/22, 11/12 and 12/3. Your lowest test score will be dropped. I will give you more information about the test formats before each test. If you are unable to attend a test for a legitimate, excused reason you must notify me *in advance* of the test to make alternate arrangements. I reserve the right to substitute your final exam score for an excused missed test rather than providing a make-up test.

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive and will be similar in format to the tests. The final exam is scheduled for Friday 12/17 from 12:30-2:30pm. Absolutely no early final exams will be given. Make your holiday plans accordingly.

Homework

There will be several short homework assignments in the course. These homeworks will typically consist either of problems from the textbook or will require you to use an online simulator or lab program to help you get more "hands on" practice with the course material. Unless otherwise indicated, late homeworks will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per school day until the solutions have been posted.

Blackboard

I will use the Blackboard course management software as part of this class. The Blackboard system is located at https://blackboard.newpaltz.edu/ or via a link on the main New Paltz website. Course materials such as my lecture powerpoints, homework assignments, and

solutions will be posted to the class website. Your grades will be posted there as well. I will also use this system to communicate with you; make sure your email address in the Blackboard system is one that is current and checked regularly.

Academic Honesty and Collaboration

"Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their academic work. Cheating, forgery, and plagiarism are serious offenses, and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action." (Student Handbook page 14) I take this seriously.

Science is a collaborative effort. Therefore, you are expected to work with your classmates, share ideas, discover together, and learn from each other. However, the work that you turn in must be your own and written in your own words.

Students With Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who believe that they will need classroom and/or testing accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center in the Student Union, room 210, 257-3020 as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. The DRC will provide forms verifying the need for accommodations for you to deliver to your instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be put into place once the instructor receives the form.