

PHY206 Exploring the Universe Course Schedule

The course will cover the following topics. The test dates are set in stone while the course content may shift around them.

Motion of the Night Sky and Solar System Cycles

- Unit 1 Our Planetary Neighborhood
- Unit 2 Beyond the Solar System
- Unit 3 Astronomical Numbers
- Unit 4 Foundations of Astronomy
- Unit 5 The Night Sky
- Unit 6 The Year
- Unit 7 The Time of Day
- Unit 8 Lunar Cycles
- Unit 9 Calendars
- Unit 10 Geometry of the Earth, Moon, and Sun
- Unit 11 Planets: The Wandering Stars
- Unit 12 The Beginnings of Modern Astronomy
- Unit 13 Observing the Sky

Thursday 2/17 Test 1

Gravity & Orbits, Light & Telescopes

- Unit 14 Astronomical Motion: Inertia, Mass, and Force
- Unit 15 Force, Acceleration, and Interaction
- Unit 16 The Universal Law of Gravity
- Unit 17 Measuring a Body's Mass Using Orbital Motion
- Unit 18 Orbital and Escape Velocities
- Unit 19 Tides
- Unit 21 Light, Matter, and Energy
- Unit 22 The Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Unit 23 Thermal Radiation
- Unit 24 Atomic Spectra: Identifying Atoms by Their Light
- Unit 25 The Doppler Shift
- Unit 26 Detecting Light
- Unit 27 Collecting Light
- Unit 28 Focusing Light
- Unit 29 Telescope Resolution
- Unit 30 The Earth's Atmosphere and Space Observatories
- Unit 31 Amateur Astronomy

Monday 3/14 Test 2

The Solar System: Sun, Earth, Moon

- Unit 32 The Structure of the Solar System
- Unit 33 The Origin of the Solar System
- Unit 49 The Sun, Our Star

Unit 50 The Sun's Source of Power
Unit 51 Solar Activity
Unit 35 The Earth as a Terrestrial Planet
Unit 36 Earth's Atmosphere and Hydrosphere
Unit 37 Our Moon

Monday 4/11 Test 3

The Solar System: Planets

Unit 38 Mercury
Unit 39 Venus
Unit 40 Mars
Unit 41 Asteroids
Unit 42 Comparative Planetology
Unit 43 Jupiter and Saturn
Unit 44 Uranus and Neptune
Unit 45 Satellite Systems and Rings
Unit 46 Ice Worlds, Pluto, and Beyond
Unit 47 Comets
Unit 48 Impacts on Earth

Monday 5/2 Test 4

Other Planetary Systems

Unit 34 Other Planetary Systems
Unit 83 Astrobiology
Unit 84 The Search for Life Elsewhere

Review Day (Monday 5/9)

Thursday 5/19 10:15am - 12:15pm Final Exam