

Astronomy (Elective)

Astronomy is an introductory course designed to survey the topics of our cosmos, from the beginnings of the science and cultural impacts on humanity to the modern era of investigating the mysteries and far reaches of the universe. Along the way, the class will rely on mathematical and physics principles to provide the student with a foundation for the workings of our solar system, suns, and galaxies. The class is composed of four units, each lasting a week. A tentative night field trip will occur near the end of the course at the University of Maryland Observatory.

LEARNING SCHEDULE

Week 1: The Beginnings

Humanity and the Heavens
Charting the Sky
Orbits

Week 3: Stars

Our Sun
Stars
Formation and Death

Week 2: Our Solar System

Earth and Moon
Inner Planets
Outer Planets

Week 4: Galaxies

Milky Way
Big Bang
Dark Matter

GRADES

Grades will be calculated based on participation, homework, quizzes, and a presentation using the standard 10% scale:

A = 100 – 90%, B = 89 – 80%, C = 79 – 70, D = 69 – 60%, F = below 60%

Participation = 10%

Homework = 15%

In-Class Work & Labs = 25%

Projects = 25%

Quizzes & Tests = 25%

LATE POLICY

All work turned in late is subject to a daily 10% reduction in grade.

MAKE-UP POLICY

If a student is absent and the absence is excused, they may hand in their work late by as many days as they were absent (to a maximum of five) without penalty. After this grace

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period, normal late policy applies. In the case of unexcused absences, students will be held accountable for all work due during absences and any readings/assignments for the day(s) following their absence.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarizing is taking and using ideas from a source without citing that source. By not citing your sources, you claim that what you have written down or made is of your own creation. If you plagiarize without making an effort to cite the source of the information, you will receive no credit for that piece of work. If your plagiarism is unintentional and resulting from poor citation form, the production or project will be returned to you and not accepted until the errors are corrected. Additionally, cheating of any kind, copying classmates' work, or exhibiting dishonesty in a production, project, or exam will result in receiving no credit for that work.