

# ASTRONOMY 10

## **Stellar Astronomy**

### De Anza College

### Fall 2016

Instructor: Tom Marshburn

Email: [marshburnthomas@fhda.edu](mailto:marshburnthomas@fhda.edu)

Office Hours: TBD

Textbook: *Stars and Galaxies*, 9th ed.

by Seeds & Backman

## **Introduction**

Astronomy 10 is an introductory course which is intended to provide a survey of our knowledge of the stars, galaxies, and of the entire universe. We will examine both the history of humanity's quest to understand the cosmos as well as the current state of that understanding. The course has no prerequisites. However, De Anza College does advise the following: *English Writing 1A or English as a Second Language 5*.

The class is taught with the non-science major in mind.

## **Format**

Our time in class will be divided between lectures and audio/visual programs, including videos and demonstrations with the Fujitsu star projector and the Digital Sky system. You can expect to be tested on all of the material presented in class as well as in the textbook. The material presented in class will not always be covered in the book, and vice versa.

Because of the closed and darkened nature of the planetarium during audio-visual presentations, class meetings must begin on time. If you arrive late and find the door locked because a program is in progress, do not attempt to enter or knock.

## Registration

If you wish to add the class, you must attend the first day, and you must obtain an add code from me. It is your responsibility to use the add code before the deadline.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is required. Attendance will be taken the first few weeks using an attendance roster that will be passed around, and I will be free to drop you from the course if you have four or more unexcused absences. However, official withdrawal from the class is still the **student's responsibility**. The last date to withdraw from the class with a grade of W is Friday, November 18.

## Reading Assignments

Week of	Chapter
Sept 26	1-3
Oct 3	4-5
Oct 10	6-7
Oct 17	8
Oct 24	9-10
Oct 31	11-12
Nov 7	13-14
Nov 14	15
Nov 21	16
Nov 28	17
Dec 5	18

## **SLOs:(Student Learning Outcomes)**

- 1) Appraise the benefits to society of astronomical research concerning stars and stellar systems.
- 2) Evaluate the impact on Earth's characteristics of the evolution of stars and stellar systems.
- 3) Evaluate astronomical news items or theories about stellar astronomy based upon the scientific method.

## **Exams and Grades**

Your class grade will be based on your performance on midterm exams and the final examination. There will be **no extra credit**.

There will be three midterm exams. They represent 50% of your grade. Your lowest midterm grade will be dropped, except for the reason noted below. There will be **no makeup exams**. If you miss an exam, that will count as your low score. Students who miss two exams must withdraw before the final withdrawal date or receive an “F” grade for the class.

The final exam will be comprehensive and will account for 50% of your grade. The final exam must be passed in order to pass the class.

The exams will be held on the following dates:

First Midterm Exam:      Wednesday, October 12th

Second Midterm Exam:    Wednesday, November 2nd

Third Midterm Exam:     Wednesday, November 23rd

Final Examination:        Monday, December 12th

**All exams must be taken in class at the scheduled time on the scheduled day.**

The exams will be of the multiple choice variety, and they will be graded on a curve. You will need a ParSCORE form and a #2 pencil for each exam.

The percentage scores on your two highest midterms and the final exam will be weighted appropriately and added together and expressed as a percentage of the maximum points. Letter grades at the end of the quarter will be assigned as follows:

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Grade</b>
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89-100	A
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79-88	B
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68-78	C
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57-67	D
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< 57	F
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**NOTICE:** Cheating on any exam is grounds for a zero score on that exam, which cannot be dropped. "Cheating" is defined (in this course) to be an effort by a student to obtain a grade by any means other than demonstration of that student's individual achievement in mastering the class material and/or fulfilling terms of a project. Further grounds for expulsion from the class include any activity which interferes with others' ability to benefit from the class (such as chronic distracting behavior) or which degrades the Planetarium's function or environment.

## **Planetarium rules**

The director of the planetarium hopes that your use of the facility is enjoyable and worthwhile. In order to maintain the Planetarium's valuable services to the community, he asks that you observe the following:

- \* Absolutely no food, drink, or chewing gum is allowed in the planetarium.
- \* Do not litter.
- \* Do not leave bicycles or skateboards inside the building.
- \* Do not put your feet on the furniture.