ASTRONOMY 4

Solar System Astronomy
De Anza College
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Eric Peterson
Email: PetersonEric@fhda.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30 pm to 2:20 pm: Synchronous Email
Wednesday, 5:00 pm to 5:50 pm: PLT

Textbook: https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy
(Select your preferred option under the header: Get This Book.)

Introduction to Astronomy 4

Astronomy 4 is an introductory-level course which concentrates on the planets of our solar system and what we have learned about them in the past 50 years of space exploration. 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.

Class Format

Our in-class time 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 at every class meeting, 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**.

Reading Assignments

	Week of	**Chapter**
1.	January 6	1-2
2.	January 13	3-4
3.	January 20	5-6
4.	January 27	15-16
5.	February 3	7, 14.3-14.5, 21.3-21.6
6.	February 10	8
7.	February 17	9
8.	February 24	10
9.	March 2	11-12
10.	March 9	11-12
11.	March 16	13, 14.1-14.2

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. **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:	Thursday, January 23
Second Midterm Exam:	Thursday, February 13
Third Midterm Exam:	Thursday, March 5
Final Examination:	Thursday, March 26, 6:15p.m.-8:15p.m.

All exams must be taken 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 answer sheet and a #2 pencil for each exam.

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.

* Protect the fabric on the seats: do not put your feet on the seats or leave hair-styling materials residue on them.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

*Appraise the benefits to society of planetary research and exploration.
*Compare and contrast the development of planetary systems and of the major panet types, including those factors that have led to Earth's unique characteristics.
*Evaluate astronomical news items or theories concerning solar system astronomy based upon the scientific method.