

2013

## 118-02 Our Universe- The Sky

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Xavier University

Our Universe: The Sky  
Fall 2013

Physics 118-02 (2 credits) - TR 2:30pm – 3:20pm, Lindner Hall 103

Professor: Andrew R. Hill  
Email: hilla7@xavier.edu  
Phone: 745-3843

Office: 6 Lindner Hall  
Hours: T: 10:00-11:00, W 1:00-4:00  
or by appointment

**Course Description:** This course explores basic astronomical phenomena related to stars and galaxies and serves as an introduction to the science of astronomy. Students will acquire a conceptual understanding of these things, but will also develop skill at solving astronomy problems.

**Required Text:** Bennett, Donahue, Schneider and Voit, *The Essential Cosmic Perspective*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Addison Wesley, 2012.

**Calculator:** You will need a calculator capable of handling logarithms, powers and basic trigonometric functions. Make sure it has the following keys: LOG, ^, SIN, COS, TAN. Be sure to bring the calculator to every class session.

**Course Requirements:** Your final grade will be based on the following system

Homework	10%
3 highest test scores	25% each
Lowest test score	15%

The grading scale for each graded item in the course will be: A: Exceptional (90-100%), B: Good (80-89%), C: Satisfactory (70-79%), D: Minimum Passing (60-69%), F: Failure (below 60%). The upper 3 points of each range earn a plus and the lower 3 points of each range earn a minus.

**Blackboard:** You are required to check this web site daily. To access Blackboard, go to <http://blackboard.xavier.edu> and log in. Then click the link to this course. Class announcements and homework assignments will be posted there. The Course Content section will have copies of all course handouts. Your attendance and grades will also be posted. However, grades on Blackboard are not official. All official grades will be calculated and recorded in the instructor's own files. If you believe that a grade has been incorrectly posted on Blackboard, or if you would like to see your official grade sheet, please contact the instructor.

**Homework:** Completion of homework is an expected part of preparation for each class. Approximately once per week, homework will be collected and partially graded. Only homework submitted at class time on the due date will be accepted. To receive credit for mathematical problems, you must show your work. ***If no work is shown, no credit will be given.*** You are encouraged to work together on homework. However, you must submit your solutions in your own words and may not simply copy from other students.

**Tests and Exam:** Tests must be taken at the announced time except when there are extreme and unforeseeable circumstances, as judged by the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** Only three absences will be tolerated without academic penalty. Each absence after the third will result in a reduction of your final grade by three points on the hundred point scale. **No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences.** However, if you believe that you have a good reason to miss a class (illness, athletic commitment, etc.), please contact the instructor within a day or two of the absence to find out whether there is a way to earn attendance credit for that session.

Students are generally expected to be on time for class and to remain until the session has ended. (It's only a 50 minute commitment!) Arriving late or stepping out during class can be a distraction to others and also means that you will miss out on the material we are covering. Therefore, every four times that you arrive late, leave early, or step out in the middle of class, this will be counted as an absence. If you come to class after the roll has been called, it is your responsibility to see the instructor after class to make sure that your attendance has been counted.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is expected of all Xavier students. Conduct such as copying from the work of others or using unauthorized notes (cheat sheets, items stored in calculator memory, etc.) will not be tolerated. In any case of academic dishonesty, the dean of the student's college will be notified and the presumed penalty will be failure for the assignment.

The instructor reserves the right to inspect your calculator during a test/exam for any reason at any time. Anything stored in memory that is deemed inappropriate by the instructor will be deleted. The protective case must be removed from the calculator during all tests.

**Special Accommodations:** Accommodations will be made for students with learning disabilities according to the needs specified for each student by Xavier's Learning Assistance Center (745-3280, <http://www.xavier.edu/lac/>), provided that the instructor has received this information in sufficient time to make the accommodation.

**Calendar:** The following calendar is tentative and subject to change.

Tues. 8/27 Syllabus / Introduction

Thur. 8/29 Chapters 1-3

(Sun. 9/1) Last day to add or drop courses

Tues. 9/3 Chapters 1-3

Thur. 9/5 Chapters 1-3

Tues. 9/10 Chapters 1-3

Thur. 9/12 Chapters 1-3

Tues. 9/17 Chapters 1-3

Thur. 9/19 **Test #1**

Tues. 9/24 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Thur. 9/26 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Tues. 10/1 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Thur. 10/3 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Tues. 10/8 NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

Thur. 10/10 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Tues. 10/15 Chapters 4, 5 and 10

Thur. 10/17 Chapters 4, 5 and 10  
Tues. 10/22 **Test #2**  
Thur. 10/24 Chapters 11-13  
Tues. 10/29 Chapters 11-13  
Thur. 10/31 Chapters 11-13  
Tues. 11/5 Chapters 11-13  
Thur. 11/7 Chapters 11-13  
Tues. 11/12 Chapters 11-13  
Thur. 11/14 Chapters 11-13  
Tues. 11/19 **Test #3**  
Thur. 11/21 Chapters 14-17  
(Mon. 11/25 Last day to withdraw from course)  
Tues. 11/26 Chapters 14-17  
Thur. 11/28 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK  
Tues. 12/3 Chapters 14-17  
Thur. 12/5 Chapters 14-17  
Tues. 12/10 Chapters 14-17  
Thur. 12/12 Chapters 14-17  
Tues. 12/17 **Final Exam: 1:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. (in our usual classroom)**