

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

1. Course: **Astronomy 207, Introduction to Astronomy 1 – The Solar System, Fall 2009**

Lecture/Time/Session(s): L01 TR, 15:30 – 16:45, ST 148, Fall 2009

Instructor(s): **Dr. J. Stil**

Office: SB 519, 220-8015

Office Hours: W 14:00 – 16:00

Email: stil@ras.ucalgary.ca

PHAS Dept. Office: SB 605, 220-5385

2. Prerequisite(s): None. Not open to Students with credit in Astronomy 205 or 211.

Note: The Faculty of Science policy on pre- and co-requisite checking is outlined on page 203, columns 2 and 3 of the 2009-2010 Calendar. A student may not register in a course unless a grade at least "C" has been obtained in each pre-requisite course; it is the responsibility of students to ensure that their registrations are in order.

- 3 The University policy on grading and related matters is described on pages 41-53 of the 2009 - 2010 Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Assignments (8)	20%
Two In-Class Tests (Oct 20 & Nov 17)	40%
In-class participation (clickers)	5% (2% participation; 3% answers)
Final Examination (2 hours)	35%

A passing mark on the Final Examination is required to obtain a passing grade in the course. Students who do not obtain a passing mark on the final exam should expect a final grade no higher than D+.

There will be a final examination scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

4. Missed Components of Term Work. The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are outlined on page 204, column 1 of the 2009-2010 Calendar. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with these regulations.

TEXTBOOK: "The Cosmic Perspective-The Solar System", Bennett et al., Pearson Publishing with Mastering Astronomy

ASSIGNMENTS: On-line assignments in "Mastering Astronomy"

CLICKERS: Class-room participation devices (clickers) available through the University of Calgary bookstore. The faculty of Science uses clickers with a radio link from Einstruction. These devices will be used to poll students' understanding of concepts during lectures. 5% of the final grade is determined by the clicker score.

Department Approval: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT/SAFEWALK: Campus Security will escort individuals day or night. Call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.

Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under the heading "Student Misconduct (pages 49-53 for 2009-2010).

FOIP: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION: VP Academic **Phone:** 220- 3911 **Email:** suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
SU Faculty Rep. **Phone:** 220 3913 **Email:** sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca

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JS/lh
06/16/2009

ASTRONOMY 207

Introduction to Astronomy 1 – The Solar System

Course Outline:

A comprehensive, descriptive overview of all aspects of the solar system covering how our ideas have changed from ancient times to today. The very latest discoveries from space probes will be discussed. The theory of the formation of our solar system will be presented. Similarities and differences between the various members of our solar system will be highlighted. Topics include: the electromagnetic spectrum; telescopes and detectors; eclipses; retrograde motion; Kepler's Laws; the Terrestrial and Jovian planets; asteroids and comets; and the Sun. Recent discoveries of extra-solar planets and the possibility of extraterrestrial life will also be discussed. The opportunity for a field trip to the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory will be provided. The course is not recommended for physical science majors.

Additional Reading and Reference Books (voluntary):

"The Grand Tour. A Traveler's Guide To The Solar System", R. Miller & W. K. Hartmann, Workman Publishing, NY

Additional Information on Exams:

All exams are closed book. Calculators are allowed on all exams including the final. The final exam date and time are scheduled by the Registrar's Office. ***The two in-class tests will be held during regular class times on Oct 20 and Nov 17. All exams are cumulative.***

The two in-class tests and the final exam will cover every part of the course, including sections of the text book, lectures and lecture notes posted on blackboard, and subjects covered in the assignments. This also includes topical lectures that explore subjects in more detail.

Further Information on Course Structure:

The course material will stress conceptual understanding without mathematical derivation. However, nature behaves according to mathematical and physical concepts. Therefore, ***simple math (algebra, geometry, etc.) WILL*** be occasionally used. Students can develop an appreciation for this by doing simple calculations, similar to those clearly outlined in the "More Precisely" sections of the text.

From time to time, students will be asked to read sections of the text in preparation of a lecture (reading assignment), and be prepared to answer questions about the set sections at the beginning of class.

Clickers will be used in this course to increase student participation during lectures, and to probe understanding of concepts and reading assignments.

Email to the instructor is strictly for urgent issues that do not involve the content of the course. Questions about the content of the course can be asked at the end of class, or during regular office hours. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if they cannot come to regular office hours. Extra office hours ahead of exams will be announced in class.

Website: For up-to-date information about the course throughout the term, please visit our website in Blackboard (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>)

Mastering Astronomy Web-based Assignments

Assignments in ASTR 207 will be performed using a web-based assignment system. Students who buy a new copy of "The Cosmic Perspective" (5th edition) will find an access kit included with the textbook. Students who do not have a new copy of the textbook will have to buy an access kit separately at the University of Calgary bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to the numbered credit **assignments**, Mastering Astronomy includes practise tutorials on various parts of the course. These are optional, not for credit. Make use of them if you wish to do so.

1. All work on Mastering Astronomy is done on the web. Feedback is immediate. Due dates are listed below (just before midnight on Sunday evenings). Due dates are followed by a one-day grace period in which the credit for work done after the due date/time is linearly decreased to zero over 24 hours.
2. Students must register on the website given below and enter the ID number for ASTR 207. **The ID number for ASTR 207 is ASTR207UCAL2009.** You must also give a unique multi-character pass code that is found in your access kit. **Be sure to fill in all requested information** at the time of registration. Your name will then be added to an electronic grade book that will keep track of your assignment marks throughout the term. Be prepared to enter your University of Calgary ID number and your email address when you register.
3. Before attempting any of the credit assignments, you should work through the non-credit pre-assignment exercise named "Introduction to Mastering Astronomy". This will familiarize you with the data entry protocols for electronic assignment work.
4. Information about the grading of assignments is available through the Mastering Astronomy website.

Assignment Due Dates:

Assignment 1	Sunday, 27 September	23:59
Assignment 2	Sunday, 4 October	23:59
Assignment 3	Sunday, 18 October	23:59
Assignment 4	Sunday, 25 October	23:59
Assignment 5	Sunday, 8 November	23:59
Assignment 6	Sunday, 22 November	23:59
Assignment 7	Sunday, 29 November	23:59
Assignment 8	Sunday, 6 December	23:59

Grading scheme

Your Course Letter Grade for ASTR 207 will be based on the weighted average percentages of the various course components (assignments, clicker score, two in-class tests and final examination) using the weighting scheme on the first page of this course outline. The conversion from weighted average percentage to course letter grade is (minimum average scores required to obtain a letter grade):

90%	A+	75%	B+	60%	C+	47%	D+
85%	A	70%	B	55%	C	45%	D
80%	A-	65%	B-	50%	C-	<45%	F

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM TO GET A LETTER GRADE C- OR HIGHER