

# ASTRONOMY

COURSE: PS 215

Parker Hall 213

11:10-12:00 MTWH

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Gardner

OFFICE: Math Annex 157 (Between the stadium and the baseball field)

OFFICE HOURS: 12:00 MTWHF

PHONE: 844-3737 (Math Office = 844-5111)

TEXT: *The Dynamic Universe*, 3rd ed. by T. P. Snow.

ALSO REQUIRED: Laboratory Exercises in Astronomy (4 offprints from *Sky and Telescope*) available from the University Bookstore.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE:

Test 1: chapters 1-7 = introduction, history, instruments

Test 2: chapters 8-17 = solar system

Test 3: chapters 18-24 = stars

Test 4: chapters 25-32 = Milky Way and extragalactic astronomy

The tests will consist of true/false, fill in the blanks, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The final will be comprehensive. Your average will be computed as follows:

$$AVERAGE = \frac{T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + T_4 + F + L}{6}$$

where  $F$  is the grade on the final and  $L$  is the lab grade. The tests will be at roughly two week intervals. Grades will be assigned on a 10 point scale. All students are expected to attend class and make-up tests will be given only under the most EXTREME conditions.

We are attempting to cover the entire universe in 10 weeks. The course will be fast paced and will require constant attention from the student. We will cover, on average, one chapter per day. It is vital that you read the book and understand the

presented material. Lectures will parallel the book, but not all information that you are responsible for will be covered in the lectures. A list of terms and concepts will be given before each test and those not covered in the lectures will be in the book. The in class lectures will be, for the most part, nonmathematical.

The laboratories will be held in front of the Allison Physics Lab from 8:00 to 10:00 pm. Each lab meeting (hopefully) will consist of an observational segment in which we will identify constellations, individual stars, and specific examples of the objects discussed in class. Observational astronomy is a very weather dependent endeavor and it is necessary that you attend the lab for which you are registered. Some labs will contain material that is slightly mathematical (involving some algebra and occasionally a bit of trigonometry). Interaction between students and with the lab instructor will be encouraged, particularly on these labs.

#### Important dates:

Wednesday, June 20 = You cannot ADD a class after this date.

Tuesday, June 26 = You may attempt to change to a more appropriate class up to this date.

Friday, June 29 = If a course is dropped on or before this day, no grade is assigned and you can get a refund. If a course is dropped after this date then a "W" is placed on your record.

Monday, July 9 = If a course is dropped after this date but on or before midquarter (Monday, July 23) then a grade is assigned. Generally, this is regarded as the LAST DAY TO DROP. Also, you can change to audit up through this date.

Saturday, August 25 = The final will be on this day at 9:00-11:30 am.