Credit

3 semester hours

Course Description

History, methods, solar system, stars, and cosmology; presented on an elementary level.

Rationale for Course:

Astronomy is the most ancient of the sciences, yet at the same time, at the forefront of modern application and new information. In addition, this course presents astronomy as a case study on science for the non-scientist. It distinguishes between observation and theory, between evidence and conclusion. The goal is for students to understand how science creates, tests, improves, or discards models of natural phenomena and thus more closely approximates a complete understanding of natural processes.

Learning Objectives.

- The student will understand the movements of celestial objects and the reasons for the model of the universe accepted.
- The student will understand the structure and development of the Solar System.
- The student will understand the structure of Our Galaxy and our sun's place in it.
- The student will understand cosmology and current theories..

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to be honest and to submit their own work on exams and research papers. Strict adherence to the Mississippi College "Honesty Policy" (2009–2010 Mississippi College Undergraduate Bulletin, pg. 60) will be followed.

Course Outline

- Motions of celestial objects we observe.
- Ptolemaic & Copernican theories.
- Light and telescopes.
- Earth & moon.
- The other planets and their moons.
- Asteroids, meteoroids, and comets.
- The Sun.
- Characteristics of stars.
- Life cycles of stars.
- The Milky Way Galaxy.
- Other galaxies and quasars.
- Cosmology.

Method of Instruction

Lectures and demonstrations.

Required Text

Discovering the Universe, Comins & Kaufmann, 5th edition.

Grading

There will be three tests of 100 points each, and a comprehensive final examination which counts 200 points. The course grade is determined from the percentage of points earned out of the 500 points. An A is 90% or better; B is 80–89%, C is 70–79%, and D is 60–69%.

Makeup tests

If you know you must be out on a test day, please inform me ahead of time and schedule a makeup. If you cannot take a test due to illness or other unplanned problems, please try to call to schedule a makeup. Tests not made up soon enough (generally before the next class meeting) will be made up on finals day.

Absences

Mississippi College policies on attendance and academic integrity will be enforced. Please see the 2009–2010 Mississippi College Undergraduate Bulletin, pg. 56–57 for additional details of these policies. Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence.

Special Needs

If you need special accommodations due to learning, physical, psychological, or other disabilities, please contact Dr. Buddy Wagner in the Counseling and Career Development Center. He may be reached by phone at 601–925–3354