

Planets, Stars, and Galaxies

AST1002

Course Description:

This course presents the general concepts of astronomy and the scientific method, as well as the history of how we progressed to our current understanding of the Universe. By the end of this course, you will have the background to understand news on the latest advances in astronomy and have the means to assess the validity of a scientific claim.

Course Learning Objectives (including Liberal Studies learning objectives assigned to the course):

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- read “popular” articles about astronomy and talk about astronomy with your friends, your parents, and your children (some day, if not now!)
- explain how the motions of celestial bodies affect us and our perspectives through seasons, moon phases, and tides
- explain how astronomers learn about the rest of the Universe by using light
- describe the birth, life, and death of stars
- describe the evolution and composition of the Universe
- pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles
- use appropriate scientific methods and evidence to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments about the natural world
- analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods

Grading Assignments:

- Participation
- Research paper
- Reading assignments
- Homework
- Exams

LIBERAL STUDIES STATEMENTS

This course has been approved to meet FSU’s Liberal Studies Natural Sciences requirement and helps you become an effective interpreter of scientific results and a critical analyst of claims about the natural world.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles.
2. Use appropriate scientific methods and evidence to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments about the natural world.
3. Analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
- (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and, (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Room 4100
(850) 644-7161 Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling & Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd Floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu>