This is a sample syllabus for AST1002. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.
Course objective
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.

Our fight against COVID-19
This is one of the largest classes on campus. You are expected to utilize the basic mitigation tools, such as masking indoors and vaccines, to protect yourself and others in the class. You are expected to stay home if symptomatic and self-quarantine.

Textbook
OpenStax Astronomy. It is for your reference. It is free and available at: https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy.

Evaluation
Participation 25% Celebration 1 5%
Research article 10% Celebration 2 10%
Final Celebration 30% Celebration 3 20%

Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>59-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to fulfill the Natural Sciences requirement, you must earn a “C-” or better in the course.

Lectures
Attending class is the key to your success! Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:50-6:05 PM in HCB101. They will be an active learning environment, a combination of lectures and tutorials, rather than the passive “notes transferring.” Be prepared to work hard and be an active participant during this time. If you are lost, ask questions. I will ask you questions to keep you on your toes. Immerse yourself in astronomy and have fun! Important: Please put away your cell phones, laptops, tablets, knitting needles, and any other distractions.

Office hours
I am here to help. Please do not wait until the end of the term! Office hours are right after the class. Or schedule another time with me by email.

Participation
Attend class, put away your devices, and be fully engaged during lectures and tutorials. During class, you will work on the tutorial questions with a partner, and I will be there to help. From time to time, I will ask you to submit work done during class through Canvas. Note that you can only get participation grade if you are physically present in class.

Celebrations
There are many chances to celebrate and show off the knowledge you acquired! The questions will be multiple choice. Handwritten notes are allowed. Celebrations 1, 2, and 3 will be 1.25 hours each and conducted at our regular meeting room and time. The final celebration will be 2 hours and held at 12:30-2:30 PM on Dec 6 (location TBD).

Research article
Write a research article on a particular topic or a recent research news item in astronomy. The article will be graded based on the following rubric: 1. content, 2. presentation, and 3. references. The content is entirely up to you. Find a topic in astronomy (not other fields, such as space exploration) that interests you and dig deep. Make a logical narrative that describes the studies and history leading up to the discovery and/or our current understanding. Convince yourself that you understand the material. For presentation, take care of grammar and spelling. Add any illustrations, images, graphs, tables, etc that help the narrative. Be creative! Finally, reference your sources. Your sources should be reputable scientific journal or news articles. Use many sources to build your story. To reference, specify the article title, author, year, and journal name. You may start with web sources like Wikipedia, but they should not be listed as references.
Syllabus change policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
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
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center 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:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice) / (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu; http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Free tutoring from FSU
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

HB233 recording
In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

2022-23 Syllabus statement on pandemic protocols
The CDC recommends that all individuals, even vaccinated individuals, wear proper and well-fitting masks in public indoor spaces, like classrooms, especially where social distancing is not possible and virus rates are high. The CDC assesses the current COVID-19 infection rate in Leon County as HIGH.

Florida is experiencing a surge of the Omicron BA.5 variant, the most easily transmissible COVID-19 variant to date, which is able to evade previous immunity from infection and vaccination. It is a much more transmissible variant than the original virus, the Delta variant, or even the earlier Omicron variants. It can infect even vaccinated individuals and can be spread by them to others. It poses a special threat to members of the community with underlying health conditions and family members vulnerable to the virus. The best way to protect against serious illness is to be fully vaccinated.

FSU expects each of us to continue cooperating with common-sense public health protocols, including (1) getting vaccinated and boosted, (2) testing for the virus if you have symptoms, (3) staying home and away from others if you are sick, and (4) masking in public indoor spaces to protect yourself and others. In our classroom together, I will wear a proper, well-fitting mask, and I invite you to join me in order to reduce the spread of BA.5 and protect the vulnerable among us. Please remember that you should NOT attend class in person if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine.