

# ASTRONOMY 301

## Introduction to Astronomy

Summer 2009 Unique No. 88850 | MTWTHF 1:00-2:30 pm | RLM 15.216B

### PROFESSOR

**Don Winget**

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Office Hours (subject to change): TuTh 2:30-3:30, or by appointment.

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ross Falcon

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Office hours: MWF 2:30-3:30, or by appointment

### Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative, intended for general information purposes only. I reserve the right to change or alter this syllabus at any time in order to fit the needs of the class.

### TEXTBOOKS

Required: **The Cosmos: Astronomy in the New Millennium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.**, by Pasachoff and Filippenko

Recommended: **The Essential Cosmic Perspective, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.**, by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit

### LEVEL OF COURSE

This course is a descriptive survey of the field of astronomy. I will not emphasize mathematics; however, an understanding of basic algebra will be helpful. The course will provide you with a perspective on the universe, its scale, structure, contents, and evolution. The course is primarily lecture, although I will show a few short films..

### EXAMS AND GRADES

There will be a total of four in-class exams. Your grade will be determined from the best three exam scores, weighted 30% each. Attending and participating in a star party or a trip to an on-campus telescope will account for an additional 10%. There will be an optional project which may be used to replace one additional exam score; the topic must be approved by Ross or me in advance of the announced topic deadline. As a result of this policy, I will give no make-up exams.

### CLASS PROJECTS

The deadline for project approval is Wednesday, 17 June 2009. Please double check with Ross or me to make sure that we actually have your topic written down and not just simply verbally approved.

The deadline for turning in projects is Monday, 6 July 2009. You may turn them in during class or during our office hours. The projects will probably take a week to grade. Project grades will be posted on the web, or you can email the TA (be sure to include your UTEID). After they are graded, the projects will most likely end up in my office or the lab for safe keeping. You can pick them up from Ross or me.

### Dumb Questions

There is no such thing. **Ask!!**