

**ASTRONOMY 300**  
**Introduction to Astronomy**  
**Fall 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. William Simpson                      Office Hours:  
Office:            305 A    M,W: 1:00 – 1:50 PM  
Telephone:    484-8115    F: 9:00 – 11:50 AM  
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**Required Textbook:** The Essential Cosmic Perspective, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
by Jeffrey Bennett

**Pre-requisite:** None at the college level.

**Attendance:** **Attendance and participation are required and are part of your grade.**

If you miss an exam because of illness, call me on the same day to arrange a make up time. **DO NOT wait until the next class to tell me you missed the exam and want to make it up. Make up exams will only be given with prior approval and are not guaranteed.**

\*\* Excessive absences will result in the lowering of your grade at the end of the semester.

**Reading Assignments:** You will be given regular reading assignments, with worksheets to help you take notes and focus your attention on the important concepts. The worksheets will be collected for grading at the start of the next class.

**In-Class Participation:** After you have read about a topic in the textbook and turned in your reading worksheet, we will discuss that topic in class. You will also be given in-class worksheets to work on in small groups. The in-class worksheets will be collected for grading.

**Exams:** There will be five midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. The date for each midterm exam will be announced in class at least one week prior to the exam.

**Materials:** You must have the textbook to complete your reading and homework assignments. It is useful, but not mandatory, to bring the book to class.

You need a notebook or binder in which to keep your notes, handouts, worksheets and graded exams.

You need a simple calculator – one that can do addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and exponents.

### Secrets to Success:

- Attend every class and get involved in the class discussions.
- Study every day.
- Do all of the reading assignments and worksheets.
- Do not give up if you do not understand something. Ask questions.
- Study with friends.

### Course Evaluation:

Midterm Exams	There are 5 midterm exams. Each exam is worth 12% of your grade.	60%
Reading Worksheets	Reading worksheets will be given out regularly. The total score for completing all of your reading assignments is worth 15% of your grade.	15%
Attendance & In-Class Worksheets	Attendance and participation is worth 10% of your final course grade. Your attendance grade drops every time you miss class or are late to class.	10%
Final Exam	The final exam is comprehensive. It is worth 15% of your final course grade.	15%

- In general, your letter grade will be assigned using the following scale:

100% – 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
59% or less	F

- **BUT** if you do not complete all the required work (come to class only once in a while, miss exams, etc...), then your letter grade will be determined by the instructor, based on an evaluation of your overall performance in class.
- This is a college-level course, so you are expected to be in class on time, work hard, ask questions, participate in the class, be responsible for your own work, present all your work in a professional manner, keep high ethical standards, do your own work without copying from others, and behave as an adult with both your instructor and classmates. Failure to behave appropriately will affect your grade.
- Academic Misconduct: Students caught cheating on assignments (copying from others and claiming the work as their own) will not be given credit for completing those assignments. Students caught cheating on exams will not be given credit for taking the exam. Excessive cheating will result in a failing grade or removal from the class.

## General Policies

- This class will use Blackboard (<http://blackboard.losrios.edu>) as a course bulletin board. Announcements, assignments, handouts, answers and grades will be posted to this class's Blackboard website.
- As a general rule, food is not allowed in the classroom. However, as long as you are discrete and clean up after yourself, you may bring something to eat or drink. Please keep all food and drink away from the computers and the laboratory equipment.
- Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class. Points will be deducted from your attendance and participation grade if your cell phone rings during class or if you are seen using your cell phone during class.
- Any students requiring accommodation for disabilities need to contact me during the first few weeks of class so there is sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.
- There are a number of campus resources available to help you succeed in this class.

**LRC:** The Learning Resource Center is a well-equipped, professionally staffed facility that offers students a personal approach to academic success through independent study, individualized tutoring, and alternate modes of instruction. (<http://www.arc.losrios.edu/learnres/lrc.html>)

**MESA:** MESA is a learning community for students pursuing four-year degrees in the fields of mathematics, science, or engineering. MESA helps students achieve in the classroom, progress academically, and develop professionally. Eligible students have experienced educational and financial disadvantage. (<http://www.arc.losrios.edu/~mesa>)

**DSPS:** Disabled Students Programs and Services provides specialized services and academic accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities. (<http://www.arc.losrios.edu/~dsps>)

**Science Skills Center:** Work at your own pace on modules designed to help you improve your skills in note taking, paraphrasing, graphics reading, concept mapping, test preparation and test taking for science classes. ([http://www.arc.losrios.edu/~biology/science\\_skills\\_center.htm](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/~biology/science_skills_center.htm))