Astronomy 1307, Fall 2023 (hybrid)
UTEP CRN 16586, Cr: 3.0

Dr. Héctor Noriega-Mendoza (hnoriega@utep.edu), Physics Department

Face-to-face lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50 PM, PSCI Room 115

...on the verge of us becoming a biplanetary civilization, with high post-pandemic hopes

Astronomy 1307 is a college-level, introductory course to astronomy and the solar system aimed at UTEP non-science majors. Students will get familiar with the night sky, the key role of naked-eye and telescopic observations and the main features and models of the solar system and extrasolar planets. Through astronomy, students will be exposed to the role of science in modern society.

Office hours: Weekdays by appointment; just send an email to hnoriega@utep.edu with questions/concerns.

Online, open-source textbook: Astronomy by Fraknoi, Morrison and Wolff (https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy)

Other references and materials: - Stellarium, Celestia and NAAP Labs (free astronomical software)
- Scientific calculator or cell phone with scientific calculator app

Course evaluation:
Four partial exams (lowest grade to be dropped) 60%
Quizzes/exercises and activities 20%
Comprehensive final exam 20%

Grade distribution: 100-90=A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59 and below=F

Tests: All partial tests and most quizzes/activities will be given/assigned online through our Blackboard platform (see calendar below). The final exam is a comprehensive test covering chapters 1-8.

There will be no make-up exams: the policy of dropping the lowest test grade is intended for those students who miss an exam for whatever reason. In case of medical urgencies, please notify the instructor ASAP and provide proper justification. I won’t accept trivial excuses, since ample time will be given to complete quizzes and tests.

Classes begin: Aug. 28th Course drop deadline: Nov. 3rd Last day of classes: Dec. 7th

Calendar of online exams:
Exam 1: September 22-24 (due September 24 by midnight)
Exam 2: October 20-22 (due October 22 by midnight)
Exam 3: November 17-19 (due November 19 by midnight)
Exam 4: December 8-10 (due December 10 by midnight)
Final Exam: December 14 (due December 14 by midnight)
Face-to-face lectures, online tests and quizzes/exercises

I will be delivering in-person lectures Tuesdays and Thursdays (check schedule at the top of the first page). Tests, quizzes/exercises and activities, most to be posted and completed on Blackboard, will be announced to the class personally and through their UTEP emails. Students will be given ample time to complete and submit their work online.

Technology requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the Help Desk (helpdesk@utep.edu) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

Course overview

Chapters 1 & 2: Astronomy as a science, the night sky, astronomical scales, apparent and absolute magnitudes, Earthly cycles, eclipses, geocentric and heliocentric models of the universe, history of astronomy (Ptolemy, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton).

Chapters 3 & 4: Light and its properties, refracting and reflecting telescopes, NGTs, telescopes throughout the EM spectrum, blackbody radiation, atoms and spectra, spectral lines and Doppler effect.

Chapters 5 & 6: Introduction to the solar system, members and overall properties, Titius-Bode and Kepler’s third law, planets and dwarf planets, extrasolar planets, gravity, center of mass, the Earth-Moon system.

Chapters 7 & 8: Terrestrial and Jovian planets of the solar system.

Online PASS tutoring sessions

Mr. Joel García (imgarcia29@miners.utep.edu) is our PASS leader and tutor. Check out his schedule for online tutoring sessions.

CASS and Disability Statement

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Academic Integrity Policy

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, and the homepage of The Dean of Students (DOS) at www.utep.edu/dos may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.
COVID-19 precautions

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org