



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Descriptive Astronomy – Section Syllabus

AST1002, Section D9354

Spring 2025, Session A

Instructor: Dr. Caren Garrity

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Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: 1/16/2025

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: 4/7/2025

Course Description:

Introduces the celestial sphere, constellations, time, telescopes, properties of light, the solar system, stars, and galaxies. Requires a working knowledge of arithmetic and simple algebra.

Class Meeting Time: Online (asynchronous)

Class Location: Canvas

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Placement at the college level or completion of the appropriate exit-level developmental course(s) with a grade of C or better.

Offered: FA, SU, SP

Distribution: Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grade calculation:

Your final grade is based on your (1) 6 module quizzes (plus short syllabus quiz), (2) 10 discussions (3) 6 assignments, (4) 6 module discussions, (4) research paper with 2 checkpoints, (5) reflections and (6) final exam grade.

Points break-down:	
Discussions (10@20)	200 points
Assignments (6@30)	180 points
Reflections Assignment	40 points
Research Paper	100 points
Syllabus Quiz	10 points
Quiz (6@20)	120 points
Final Exam	120 points

Total Points 770 32% testing and 68% Graded Assignments

Grading Scale:

Percent	Letter Grade
90-100	A
88-89	B+
80-87	B
78-79	C+
70-77	C
68-69	D+
60-67	D
Below 60	F

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Scientific and Mathematical Literacy: The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

Information Literacy: The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Expand the student's knowledge of the universe around them.
2. Show that astronomers are continuing to make new discoveries and learn more about the universe every day.
3. Utilize, and provide a foundation, for exploring other physical sciences.

4. Experience finding and identifying objects in the sky and learn to observe these objects with, or without, enhancements using technology like binoculars or a telescope.
5. Inspire students to ponder some of the great unanswered questions in astronomy and hold interest in the pursuit of the solutions in the future.
6. Provide context for understanding the students' own unique place in the cosmos.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: <https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/Catalog/Student-Handbook/Student-Responsibilities/Plagiarism-and-Academic-Cheating>

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Pirates CARE Student Resource Center

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with your academic and personal success. These can include things such as basic needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.), increased anxiety, depression, substance use, grief, or other stressful experiences. The Pirates CARE Student Resource Center provides free services to students, including emergency aid, campus food pantries, career clothing closets, connections to local resources for basic needs support, and confidential mental health counseling services provided in-person or via telehealth.

You can contact the Pirates CARE Student Resource Center at 850-484-1759 or by email at PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu. More information about our services can be found online at www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE.

For additional 24/7 crisis help, the Crisis Text Line can be accessed by texting "GULF" to 741-741, and the Suicide Lifeline can be reached by phone at 9-8-8.

Equity Statement:

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information in its programs, activities, and employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Student Conduct, 1000 College Blvd., Building 5, Pensacola, Florida 32504, (850) 484-1759.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.