ASTRONOMY 310

Class Hours

Monday 6-10:30 PM, meet in Planetarium, room 107, 125, or at observatory

Instructor

Kent Montgomery (Office: Science Building Room 148, Phone 903-886-8650, e-mail: kent_montgomery@tamu-commerce.edu)

Cheri Davis - Teaching Assistant (Office: Science Building 148, phone 903-468-8650, email: cheri_davis@tamu-commerce.edu)

Office Hours

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 10 am. I will be glad to assist you at other times just make an appointment to make sure I am free.

Text

The textbooks are Observational Astronomy, second edition, by Birney, Gonzalez and Oesper and Field Guide to the Night Sky, Audubon Society. The textbooks will be used for homework assignments.

Course Description

This course is intended for students who wish to learn more about basic astronomical observations, telescopes, digital photography, etc. The students entering the class should already have a basic understanding of how telescopes work and the basic motions of the sky including the positions of planets,

phases of the Moon, etc. This class is designed to meet one of the requirements for an astronomy minor.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe the motion of objects in the sky from a given latitude.
2. Students will be able to setup and use the telescopes at the observatory.
3. Students will learn the basic types of telescopes.
4. Students will learn the different kinds of deep sky objects.
5. Students will be able to reduce and analyze digital astronomical images.

Grading

Since this class only meets once per week attendance is critical. There will be no makeup classes and if a student misses a class they will be unable to obtain the material from that day or do the activity performed that day. A student's grade will be based on a midterm test, final, homework and notebook.

The notebook is a scientific journal kept by each student in which they keep track of activities done throughout the semester. In this notebook each student will keep a record of all assignments, photographs, observations and any other information pertinent to the class.

The notebook should include materials for every class meeting or activity. A separate page in the notebook should be created for each night observation. During these observations the weather conditions should be recorded, this includes temperature, cloud cover, wind, humidity and quality of seeing. Along with the weather, each observation through a telescope should be noted with a brief description of the item being observed, the telescope and eyepiece combination, and any filters or other optical aids.

For indoor activities a record should be kept of what was done during the class period, including any sheets from activities or handouts.

This notebook will account for 40% of your grade. The remaining 60% will come from the midterm test, homework and final, 10% for homework, 20% for the midterm and 30% for the final.

Your final grade will be determined using the following.

Grading

A > 90%
90% > B > 80%
80% > C > 70%
70% > D > 60%
60% > F

Syllabus Requirement

Faculty are required to include the following statement in their syllabi: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: