ASTR 260 Archaeoastronomy
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kent Montgomery
Office Location: Science Building Room 106
Office Hours: M-R 9 to 10 am
Office Phone: 903-886-5488
University Email Address: kent.montgomery@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email is the best way to get a hold of me
Communication Response Time: I will respond within 24 hours but not on weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: Skywatchers, Anthony Aveni
Other required Materials: Compass, Protractor, Calculator and Ruler.
Optional Texts and/or Materials:
- Echoes of the Ancient Skies, The Astronomy of Lost Civilizations, E.C. Krupp
- Ancient Astronomy, Clive Ruggles
- Living the Sky, The Cosmos of the American Indian, Ray A. Williamson
- Megaliths, Myths and Men, An Introduction to Astro-Archaeology, Peter Lancaster Brown
- Stairway to the Stars, Skywatching in Three Great Ancient Cultures, Anthony Aveni

Course Description

This course will give the students an understanding of the basic motions of the sky including determining cardinal points, sun rise and set positions, moon rise and set positions as well as tracking planets on the sky. In addition, we will get a basic understanding of the many ancient calendar systems. The studies of each of these concepts will be enhanced by studying ancient civilizations and cultures and their understanding of astronomy and how it is reflected in their beliefs, architecture and cultures.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
The course will have many activities which will go along with the lectures. Most of the activities will occur during the lecture but we may on several occasions during the semester have activities which will be done at varying times during the day and night.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.
- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- Students will be able understand and utilize mathematical functions and empirical principles and processes.
- Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
All grades will be kept in D2l. In addition, pictures and other materials used during class will be accessible through D2l.

Instructional Methods
The course will meet in the planetarium on Tuesday and Thursday each week from 2 to 3:15 pm. Occasional activities will be held during the class time and will count as grades in the class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Attendance
Regular attendance is essential to doing well in this class. Many of the topics covered will only be covered in lecture and not in the reference books. Many days during lecture we will be doing activities which will only be done on that day. Thus don't miss a lecture. If a student has excessive absences they will be referred to the Dean’s office and may be involuntarily dropped from the class.

GRADING

Homework and Activities
Students will be given homework assignments or activities throughout the semester in order to work on skills learned during class and to prepare them for the tests. In addition, there will be reading assignments and some of the homework questions will be taken from the assigned readings. The lowest homework or activity

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grade will be dropped. **No makeup activities will be given.** If you miss the day of the activity you will receive a zero.

**Project**
Using what they have learned during the semester students will design a sculpture, building, site, etc. that has specific astronomical alignments. They will then create a model of their design in whatever medium they chose (paper, wood, foam, clay, digital, etc.) and give a short presentation to the rest of the class describing what it is and the significant astronomical alignments.

**Tests and Final**
Three exams will be given during the semester and a final will be given at the end of the semester. The three tests during the semester will cover only the material leading up to each test. The final will be comprehensive covering both the material at the end of the semester as well as material on the first three tests. A higher percentage of the questions will come from the untested material at the end of the semester. The final is not required for those that participate in the field trip.

**Grading**
- Homework and Reading assignments 20%
- 3 Tests 15% Each
- Final 20%
- Project 15%
Your grade will be determined using the following scale:
- 90% < A
- 80% < B < 90%
- 70% < C < 80%
- 60% < D < 70%
- F < 60%

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**LMS**
All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook, http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity
Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- 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:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement
Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tentative Test Schedule:

1st Test  Thursday, February 7th
2nd Test   Thursday, March 14th
3rd Test   Thursday, either April 11th or 18th
Final      Tuesday, May 7th 1:15 pm