

# ASTRONOMY 310

## Class Hours

Monday 6-10:30 PM, meet in room 107 at 6 pm every Monday.  
Weather permitting we will then travel to the observatory

## Instructor

**Kent Montgomery** (Office: Science Building Room 106,  
Phone 903-886-5488, email: [kent.montgomery@tamuc.edu](mailto:kent.montgomery@tamuc.edu))

**Cheri Davis** - Teaching Assistant (Office: Science Building  
148, phone 903-468-8650, email: [cheri.davis@tamuc.edu](mailto:cheri.davis@tamuc.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 textbook is Observational Astronomy, second edition, by Birney, Gonzalez and Oesper. The textbooks will be used for homework assignments and basic astronomy reference material.

## 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.

The classes will meet in room 107 of the science building at 6 pm every Monday night. The first hour will be a lecture then weather permitting the rest of the class will be spent at the observatory.

### **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

### **Course Calendar**

Midterm around 14<sup>th</sup> of October (depending upon weather)  
Final December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Last day of class)

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### ADA Statement

##### **Students with Disabilities:**

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 [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

#### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

##### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

A&M-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.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles can result in a score of zero for your assignment and may result in further disciplinary action.

## **Campus Concealed Carry**

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.