



TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Title: Solar System
Course Prefix & Number: PHYS 1304
Semester & Year: Summer I & II 2016

Instructor Information

Instructors Name: Delbert Dowdy
Office Location and #: Chemistry Bldg., Room 229
Office Phone: 903-823-3317
Email: Delbert.Dowdy@texarkanacollege.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Best way to contact quickly is to send an email to astronomy1304@gmail.com

Course Description

Solar System (lecture) (3,3,0). Study of the sun and its solar system, including its origin. (Cross-listed as ASTR 1304)

Recommended co-requisite is PHYS 1104

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Free online textbook available only online at:

<http://www.teachastronomy.com/textbook>

Other Course Materials: All other materials will be supplied or can be found online free.

Microsoft Office: Texarkana College offers Office 365 to all students. Instructions on how to download this free software can be located at

<https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/helpdesk/install-office-2013>.

Computer Requirements

Access: This is an online course. You will need to have access to a computer. If you do not have access to a computer off campus, there are computers located in the Palmer Memorial

Library that may be used by students. It is best if you have high speed internet access. If you have Dial-up, it may be difficult to download videos and other materials.

Operating System:

Windows Operating System		Mac OS X Operating System	
Minimum System Requirements		Minimum System Requirements	
Operating System:	Windows XP	Operating System:	OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard)
Processor:	1.7 GHz	Processor:	1.83 GHz
RAM:	1 GB	Memory:	1 GB
Browser:	Firefox 4.0 Internet Explorer 8	Browser:	Firefox 4.0 Safari 4.0

Computer Hardware Requirements:

- Internet Access: High speed internet connection such as cable modem or DSL
- Processor: 2GHz processor
- Memory: 1GB RAM; 4 GB free hard drive space
- Some courses and/or assignments may require the use of a webcam.
- The learning management system is optimized for desktop displays; tablet and smartphone users should use the Mobile Apps. **Always** use a wired desktop or laptop to take you quizzes and exams on.

Browser: Texarkana College’s Learning Management System (Jenzabar’s eLearning) suggests that students use the most current version of the Internet Explorer browser. You can download Internet Explorer by going to:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/internet-explorer.aspx>

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Show basic knowledge of the history of astronomy
2. Show knowledge of the basic laws of science as they apply to astronomy
3. Show an understanding of the tides, and seasons on earth
4. Know the basic motions of the solar system
5. Know the basic surface features of the terrestrial planets, including the Earth and Moon.
6. Know the basic characteristics of the Jovian planets (atmospheres and magnetospheres) and their major moons.
7. Know the different parts of comets and their behavior and the types and origins of comets.

8. Know the types of solar system “debris” (asteroids, meteoroids) and their characteristics.

9. Understand the basics of the theory of solar system formation.

Communication between Instructor and Student

All communication in the course will be conducted through email, telephone, or Remind.com. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours but usually much quicker. If you have not received a reply within that time limit, please resend.

All email communications should go through the designated email for this class:
astronomy1303@gmail.com

REMIND.COM – I will send periodic reminders when assignments are due or some important information needs to go to the class. This is one-way communication and you are not able to respond back to Remind.com but you can send an email to the above address. If you do not sign up for Remind.com, you may miss some very important communication that I will not send any other way. Remind.com sends text messages to your phone or can be set to send an email instead.

If you wish to leave a voice message, call my office phone number and it will be recorded and be sent to my computer. Email is the preferred method of communication.

Grading

Online Issues: This is not a self-paced class. An online course covers the same material as traditional “live” sections. You have some flexibility in determining WHEN you work on the class material, but there are regular and specific deadlines for assignments, forums, tests, etc. Be sure to keep up with the timing. In this online course you do not have to be physically present at a particular place and time as in a traditional class, but it may not demand less time or effort. In fact, online classes can take MORE time and discipline than fact-to-face classes. I expect you to check your email and Remind.com once every 48 hours at a minimum, including weekends. This means that you will need to make sure that you have some way to be able to use the internet regularly. Have a backup plan in case your home computer/internet connection goes down.

Texarkana College is not responsible for issues related to your computer or internet service. Problems with your computer or internet service is not an excuse for completing your assignments by their deadline.

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = Below 60

Student Assessment

Your final grade for this course will be determined by the following method:

- (1) The average of your forum posts will be worth 15%
- (2) Your class project will be worth 6.5%
- (3) The average of your assessment grades will be worth 19.5%
- (4) The average of your test grades will be worth 49%
- (5) Your final exam will be worth 10%

Activities/Assignments

How the Course is Organized

Schedule: The course is not based on a weekly system but divides the course into equal segments. You may complete the assignments early but the tests can only be taken on the dates listed. Assignments and tests are NOT equally spaced as I have responded to requests to not have due dates on Saturdays or Sundays. Be sure to check your calendar and have Remind.com.

Readings: The readings for each chapter are from the online book. The online book is best online free book that I have been able to find. If the book is not available for some reason, you can complete all your assignments by using the internet or addressing questions to me.

Supplemental Materials: Along with the readings there will be power points and movies for each chapter. There may also be some online applications that are referred to from time to time. Make sure your device is able to access and use the online applications.

Assessments: For each chapter, there will be two assessments consisting of questions that are to be turned in by the due dates. There are two assessments instead of one because I get better results from students when you have to answer fewer questions per assignments that are due more often. If you like to get the assignments turned in all at once, just complete both assignments by the first due date.

These questions must be submitted in an email to the following address:

Astronomy1304@gmail.com. Please do not send an attachment but write answers directly in the email. When submitting answers be sure to: 1) Put the words in the subject line "Assignment Chapter 3" so I know what you are sending 2) Give me only the answers and not the questions 3) Number the answers just as they are on the questions. 4) Be sure to include your NAME if you wish to receive credit as your email address that shows up will not let me know who you are.

Tests: Chapter tests will be available on-line on the dates indicated above for ONE day. The tests are randomly generated from a test bank. Each of the tests is different--no students will receive the same exam. Each test will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. You will be allowed 30 minutes to complete each test. The tests will be made available only on the date posted on the schedule and calendar. Both are available on the class page.

Warning: When taking a test, do not close the testing window, attempt to open other windows, or try to print the exam. These actions will cause the test to close. Taking photographs of exam pages is prohibited and constitutes academic dishonesty—see section below.

Discussion (Forum): Your responses to discussion questions will be posted in the forum area. Your responses must be 100 words or more to receive full credit. Most weeks you will have two forums due on Tuesday and Friday. You can always turn in your forum answers before the due date.

Final: The final exam is comprehensive and consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. This test will be available at the TC testing center or can be administered by an approved proctor. The TC testing center is located in the Library on the first floor. You will need to bring a student I.D., a picture I.D., a scantron, and a pencil to the exam. See the testing center link on the upper left of our home page for more information and business hours.

Remind.com: Reminders and other communication will be sent by way of the Remind.com web site in the form of either a text message or email if you do not want to receive text messages. Look online to see how to set up the service.

Project: A project will be made available toward the end of the semester. It will require you to do some searching for articles, write a synopsis of the articles, and post the synopsis. You will be in a small group. When all the synopsizes are posted, you will put all the information together from your group and write a short paper using all the information from your group.

Lab: There is a separate lab that is offered for this course if you need or wish to take the lab. Some people are not required to take a lab science. Check to make sure if you need or do not need the lab.

Problems: If you need assistance send an email to Astronomy1304@gmail.com with the word “Problem” in the subject line.

Instructional Method: The lecture method will be the major method used. However, the student will be required to participate in activities and discussions. Several Audio Visual aides will be provided to help understanding.

Student Grades: You can check your grades at any time by going to the GRADEBOOK portion on the left on the Course Page.

Grade Recording Form: A form can be downloaded from the Course Page that will show grade details.

What Should Students Do First?

Go the page that opens when you enter the course and read all the material on that page.

Then proceed to the 1.Orientation section in the blue area on the left.

Read the handouts and watch the welcome videos.

Send in the orientation assessment to the email listed.

Complete the first forum and take the Orientation Test on the two days it is open.

Proctored Exams

If you live outside a 50 mile radius of Texarkana College, and do not desire to drive to the college to take exams that must be taken at the Texarkana College Testing Center, you may choose to have your exam proctored at another location. For information on having an exam proctored, go to <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/online/proctored-exams/>. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for proctoring. **I MUST RECEIVE THIS PROCTOR REQUEST INFORMATION AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE EXAM'S DUE DATE.**

Class Expectations

Students are expected to login within the first 3 days of class and begin working on your assignments immediately. You are expected to keep up with deadlines through the calendar and Remind.com. You are expected to turn in all your work and take tests on time.

Class Schedule

Section	Dates	Assess 1	Assess 2	Test
Orientation	Jan 19 - Jan 25		25-Jan	Jan 26,27
Ch 1	Jan 26 - Feb 4	30-Jan	4-Feb	Feb 5,6
Ch 2	Feb 5 - Feb 14	9-Feb	14-Feb	Feb 15,16
Ch 3	Feb 15 - Feb 24	19-Feb	24-Feb	Feb 25,26
Ch 4	Feb 25 - Mar 13	29-Feb	13-Mar	Mar 14,15
Ch 5	Mar 14 - Mar 23	18-Mar	23-Mar	Mar 24,25
Ch 6	Mar 24 - Apr 2	28-Mar	2-Apr	Apr 3,4
Ch 7	Apr 3 - Apr 12	7-Apr	12-Apr	Apr 13,14
Ch 8	Apr 13 - Apr 22	17-Apr	22-Apr	Apr 23,24
Ch 9	Apr 23 - May 2	27-Apr	2-May	May 3,4

Absentee Policy

Because you do not come on campus and sit in a classroom, attendance is determined by your active participation and communication in the course. Make sure that you log in frequently, participate in your course activities and discussions, and check your TC email regularly. Students who succeed in online classes keep a schedule just as they would if they were attending class on

campus, and they communicate with one another and their instructor frequently. Attendance is vital to your success.

Absence in an **online course** is defined as the lack of an active post or submission within the course including discussion board posts, written assignments, and tests. This standard will be used to determine all absentee issues, including but not limited to, 12th Day Census Reports, last date of attendance, and involuntary withdrawal from a course due to absences. **All online students must complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class (any contact with the professor); otherwise the professor may drop the student for not having attended.**

A student should not stop attending a class without formally withdrawing from the course by the institutions published Last Day for Students to Drop. If a student stops attending class after the published Last Day for Students to Drop, the student **may** receive a grade of “F” in the class. The instructor will submit the last date of attendance for students receiving a grade of “F” or “W”.

Withdrawal from a course(s) may affect a student’s current or future financial aid eligibility. Students should consult the Financial Aid Office to learn both short and long term consequences of a withdrawal.

Make-up Policy / Late Work

Make-up Policy: As a general policy, I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS. Tests are available for one day.

Late Work: Due dates for the assessments are listed above and all assignments are due by midnight of the date listed. For each day you are late, I will deduct 20% of that grade up to 4 days late in which you grade goes to 20% of the original grade. You then have 2 weeks to get the assignment turned in or the grade will go to 0. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis. Waiting to the last minute and having a computer crash is not an acceptable excuse.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the TC Catalog/Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

Disability Act Statement

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3349, or go by his office located in the Palmer Memorial Library.

If you have an accommodation letter from his office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

Financial Aid

Attention! Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making the decision to drop a course.

Complaint Process

The complaint process can be found at <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/online-classes-complaint-procedure.pdf>.

Netiquette

“Netiquette” is the term used to describe rules of courtesy in using electronic communication. These rules are intended to help use the medium effectively and considerately. The ideas below are intended to help with electronic class discussion.

When communicating in an online course you are addressing a group of people. The following guidelines will help you to communicate effectively.

- Don't say things that you wouldn't say in a face-to-face environment, or in any public place.
- Don't share confidential information.
- Use the subject line to identify the content of the message.
- Stay up-to-date on forum postings by reading them regularly.
- Always comply with copyright by citing your references when posting online content.
- Use individual e-mail for messages to individuals rather than tying up the group list.
- Do not forward emails or discussion forum postings without asking permission to from the original author.
- Electronic communication does not provide visual cues, such as smiles or frowns that face-to-face communication allows. Therefore, humor and/or sarcasm in written text might be misunderstood and interpreted as rude or inflammatory in the online

environment. Choose your words carefully to avoid hurting, or angering anyone. Should emotions become inflamed, do not promote the anger. Take a cooling down period, perhaps overnight, before you engage in the online activity again.

- Avoid using all capital letters in your text. This is considered ‘shouting’ in the online classroom.
- Aim for clarity and readability in your text.
- Use proper English and remember to spell check.
- If you do not understand the assignment’s directions or the posts of your classmates don’t be afraid to ask for clarification.
- The online classroom is a community of learners. Participate actively in the community and reach out to your classmates with a helping hand.

Technical Assistance

Texarkana College offers students several ways to access technical assistance for IT issues as well as their Online classrooms.

General IT issues

Help Desk Link from TC's main webpage: <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/helpdesk>

Phone: 903-823-3030

Email: helpdesk@texarkanacollege.edu

Moodle Issues

TC Online Web Page: <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/online>

Vernon Wilder:

Email: vernon.wilder@texarkanacollege.edu

Phone: 903-823-3252

Rusty Hatchett:

Email: harold.hatchett@texarkanacollege.edu

Phone: 903-823-3053