TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Course Syllabus – Online Courses

Course Information

Course Title:	Solar System Lab
Course Prefix & Number:	PHYS 1104 W
Semester & Year:	Spring 2018

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:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:00-12:00	9:30-12:00	9:00-12:00	9:30-12:00
1:00 – 3:00	1:00 – 2:00	1:00 – 3:00	1:00 – 3:00
5:30-6:00		5:30-6:00	

Course Description

Solar System **(lab) (3,1,0).** Study of the sun and its solar system, including its origin. **(Cross listed as ASTR 1104).**
Pre/Co-requisite
Recommended Co-requisite is Phys 1304

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Free Online labs will be provided.

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 (Moodle) suggests that students use the most current version of the Firefox browser. You can download Firefox by going to https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/**firefox**/new/ .

Student Learning Outcomes

1) Study the motion of the sun in the sky
2) Study the motion of the moon in the sky
3) Describe the phases of the moon
4) Describe general sky motions

5) Describe the moon's surface
6) Describe general planet properties
7) Describe inner planet properties
8) Describe outer planet properties
9) Describe the properties of comets
10) Show what forms the seasons

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 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:
astronomy1304@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 and "windows" for discussions. Be sure to keep up with the timing. In this online course you may not have to be physically present at a particular place and time as in a traditional class, but it does not demand less time or effort. In fact, online classes tend to take MORE time and discipline than fact-to-face classes. I expect you to check your TC email 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) Labs scores – 100%

For more details check the orientation section of the course for the grade sheet and detailed information on the grade sheet.

Activities/Assignments

Journal Labs: Three of the labs will run all semester long. They require that you take readings outside at specific times. The wrap-up labs at the end of the semester will ask questions about the journaling labs.

Lab: Other than the journaling labs, you will have one lab due per week.

There are no exams on the labs.

Class Schedule

Lab	Start Date	Date Due	Point Value
Orientation	Jan 16	Jan 24	40
Sun Path Journal	Jan 30	Apr 25	90
Sun Setting Journal	Feb 2	Apr 25	90
Moon Phase Journal	Feb 5	May 2	90
Stellarium Intro	Feb 7	Feb 14	60
Stellarium Motions	Feb 15	Feb 21	60
Retrograde motion	Feb 22	Feb 28	60
Lunar Maps	Mar 1	Mar 7	60
Properties of Planets	Mar 8	Mar 21	60

Inner Planets	Mar 22	Mar 28	60
Outer Planets	Mar 29	Apr 4	60
Comets	Apr 5	Apr 11	60
Seasons	Apr 12	Apr 18	60
Sun Path Wrapup	Apr 19	Apr 25	75
Moon Wrapup	Apr 26	May 2	75

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. Check TC email and Moodle at least three times per week.

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 (activity depends upon the professor); otherwise the professor **may** drop the student for not having attended.

If you have any specific attendance requirements for your course, this would be a good place to insert them.

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

No makeups are allowed unless you can prove you were not able to complete the assignment due to sickness or some other circumstance that prevented you.

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 a decision.

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 Moodle 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