



Syllabus: Stars and Galaxies (Tentative)

Course Number: Phys 1303

Semester & Year: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Name: Calvin Ainsworth

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Office Hours: M 10am-2pm, T 10am-11am, W 10am-2pm, TR 10am-11am

Textbook Information

Required Text: Astronomy 2nd edition, Openstax ISBN-10 1711470570 available at no cost at <https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy-2e> (Main Textbook)

Additoinal Text: Astropedia Textbook by Chris Imbey

Open Source Free from: <http://www.teachastronomy.com/textbook>

Other Course Material will be supplied free online

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

- 1) Describe how we detect radiation from space.
- 2) Describe the sun and its basic properties.
- 3) Describe the basic properties of stars
- 4) Describe the birth and death of stars.
- 5) Describe the Milky Way galaxy.
- 6) Describe the basic properties of galaxies.
- 7) Describe the expansion of the universe.
- 8) Describe the basic properties of cosmology.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course

Online Assignments

Participation in Forums

Chapter Tests

Student Assessment (For Specifics, see grade sheet)

You have the following possibilities for earning points:

Orientation	40 points
Reading Assignments	120 points
Practice Quizzes	160 points
Forums	80 points
Tests	320 points
Final	80 points

Grading Scale

Grade	
A	720-800
B	640-719
C	560-639
D	480-559
F	479-below

Withdraw Policy

The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the course. Failure to do so may result in an **F** or **WF** letter grade being recorded on the student transcript.

- **W:** The student officially withdraws from the course. To officially drop the course contact **Enrollment Management** at **903.823.3012** before the **last day to drop**. This letter grade does not affect the GPA.
- **F:** Assigned to the student who completes the course but earns a final average of an F for the course. This letter grade affects the GPA.
- **WF:** Assigned to the student who stops attending or participating in the course, does not officially withdraw from the course, and fails to meet the course requirements. This letter grade affects the GPA.

Make-up Policy

Late work is usually not accepted. At the discretion of the instructor, if late work is accepted a penalty may be applied.

Online Behavior

Online everyone is expected to respect the desire to learn by students. All students are expected to behave in an adult, nondisruptive manner. Inappropriate language or behavior in forums or on assignments can result in being reported to the College and dropped from the course.

Course Correspondence

Any course correspondence will be through TC student email. It is the student's responsibility to check his/ her TC email regularly for any communication related to the course.

*Being dropped from the course could affect your financial aid.

Academic Integrity Statement

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 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 Tonya Blase at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their 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 accommodation.

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.