



Syllabus: Solar System

Course Number: ASTR 1304W

Semester & Year: Spring 2014

Instructor Information

Name: Delbert Dowdy

Office: Physical Science Office 13

Telephone: 903-823-3317

E-mail: Delbert.dowdy@texarkanacollege.edu

Office Hours: Monday: 2:30-4

Tuesday: 9:30-10, 10:30-12, 12:30-2

Thursday: 9:30-10, 12:30-3

Fridays by appointment

Textbook Information

Free online textbook available at:

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

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

- 1) Describe basic measurements in studying the solar system.
- 2) Describe the early history of astronomy.
- 3) Describe how light can be used in astronomy
- 4) Describe the forms of telescopes used in astronomy.
- 5) Describe the birth of the solar system.
- 6) Describe the moon
- 7) Describe the Terrestrial planets and moons.
- 8) Describe the Jovian planets and moons.
- 9) Describe the other objects in the solar system.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates

Schedule: The course is not based on a weekly system but divides the course in near equal segments per day so the days on each section will vary. Note that the assignment due dates and the test dates are during the time that the new segment (chapter) begins. You may complete the Assignment early but the tests can only be taken on the dates listed.

	Days Spend on this Section	Dates for Each Section	Assignment Due	Test Dates
Introduction	6	Jan 21 (Tu) - Jan 26 (Su)	Jan 27(M)	Jan 27(M)-Jan 29
Chapter 1	5	Jan 27 (M) - Jan 31 (F)	Feb 1 (Sa)	Feb 1 (Sa) - Feb 3 (M)
Chapter 2	10	Feb 1 (Sa) - Feb 10 (M)	Feb 11 (Tu)	Feb 11 (Tu) - Feb 13 (Th)
Chapter 3	8	Feb 11 (Tu) - Feb 18 (Tu)	Feb 19 (W)	Feb 19 (W) - Feb 21 (F)
Chapter 4	9	Feb 19 (W) - Feb 27 (Th)	Feb 28 (F)	Feb 28 (F) - Mar 2 (Su)
Chapter 5	14	Feb 28 (F) - Mar 20 (Th)	Mar 21 (F)	Mar 21 (F) - Mar 23 (Su)

Chapter 6	14	Mar 21 (F) - Apr 3 (Th)	Apr 4 (F)	Apr 4 (F) - Apr 6 (Su)
Chapter 7	14	Apr 4 (F) - Apr 17 (Th)	Apr 18 (F)	Apr 18 (F) - Apr 20 (Su)
Chapter 8	11	Apr 18 (F) - Apr 28 (M)	Apr 29 (Tu)	Apr 29 (Tu) - May (Th)
Chapter 9	10	Apr 29 (Tu) - May 8 (Th)	May 9 (F)	May 9 (F)
Final	3	May 12 (M) - May 14 (W)		

Readings: The readings for each chapter are broken into segments of approximately 200 to 1000 words each. Two segments are planned for each day which should be 2-4 average pages per day or about 20 pages per week reading.

Supplemental Materials: Along with the readings there may be power points and movies for each chapter. There may also be some applications that are referred to from time to time.

Assignments: For each chapter, there will be an assignment consisting of questions that are to be turned in by the due date above. 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 below. 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 50 multiple choice questions. You will be allowed 60 minutes to complete each test, and you are allowed to use your book and notes. The tests will be made available only on the dates posted on the schedule below and displayed on the web site. For two days following each test, detailed feedback will be available including grade, which questions were missed, and what the correct answers were.

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: Your responses to discussion questions will be posted in the forum area under the group heading that you will be assigned. You must contribute to the discussion for each chapter at least one time during the relevant dates to get credit for discussion participation. Your first posting should be your response to the question. Check the course site for instructions on responding. You may respond more than once. Due to the large number of students enrolled in the course, you will be placed in a group of 4-6 students. When you post, your group number will appear next to your name.

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 Business Building on the corner of Robison Road and Tucker Street. 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 101: Reminders will be sent by way of the Remind101.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.

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 GRADES portion on the left on the Course Page at TC Online.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Exam grade average will count 49% of your total grade,
- Chapter assignments will count 22.5%
- Discussion question responses will count 13.5%.
- Final exam will count 15%

Grade Recording Form: A form can be downloaded from the Course Page that will allow you to keep up with your grades. See the instructions on how to use the page.

Grading Scale

Grade	
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	599-below

Make-up Policy: As a general policy, **I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS**. Tests are available for three days for the convenience of the students. Exams answers are available for three days after each test closes by clicking on the exam link.

Late Work: Due dates for the Assignments are listed above. The due date for the weeks forum discussion is Sunday night at 10 p.m. For each day you are late, 20% of that grade will deducted up to 5 days in which you grade goes to zero. Exceptions will be when you can prove that you were unable to get to a computer. Waiting to the last minute and having a computer crash is not an acceptable excuse.

Attendance Policy: Attendance for internet classes is based on accessing course materials and submitting assignments. If a student stops accessing materials and sending assignments, the date of the last report of activity will be submitted to the Registrar, and a grade of “F” will be recorded. As a result the student may lose scholarships or grants or have to repay funds already rewarded. The TC absentee policy is pasted below:

ONLINE/HYBRID COURSE ABSENCES

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. Students must complete at least one activity in their online class per week. Each week in which a student does not complete an activity will be counted as an absence. If a student is taking a hybrid course, and it does not meet during the first week of class, the student must also complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class; otherwise the student **may** be dropped for not having attended.

ABSENTEE POLICY

Texarkana College’s absentee policy allows instructors to withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences. If a student leaves and returns during class or leaves the class before the class is over, he/she **may** be considered absent. Three tardies constitute one absence. It is the student’s responsibility to check the syllabus for each instructor’s tardy policy.

In some workforce/vocational areas, such as nursing and cosmetology, certification requirements necessitate an absentee policy that is more stringent than the institutional policy. In these instances, the matter of certification takes precedence over local policies, since certification policies are established by the State of Texas.

Faculty members **are not** obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests as a result of a student’s absence from class. The institution is not required to take attendance with the exception of workforce/vocational areas, where certification requirements require taking attendance. However, experience demonstrates that regular attendance enhances academic success. As such, students are expected to attend each meeting of their registered courses.

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.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

A student's absence due to school trips and/or school business will not be counted against a

A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR THE FULL 16 WEEK SEMESTER	
Class or Lab Meets: Once a week (Night classes or Friday classes) Twice a week (MW or TR classes) Three times a week (MWF or TRF classes) Four times a week (MTWR classes)	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed: <div style="text-align: right;"> 2 4 6 8 </div> Three tardies count as one absence
A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 14 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER	
Class or Lab Meets: Twice a week (MW or TR classes)	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed: <div style="text-align: right;"> 4 </div> Three tardies count as one absence.
A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 8 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER (Fast-Track)	
Class or Lab Meets: Four times a week (MTWR classes)	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed: <div style="text-align: right;"> 4 </div> Three tardies count as one absence.
A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 5 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER (Summer Sessions)	
Class or Lab Meets: 3 times a week (MTW) (evening classes) 4 times a week (MTWR) (day classes)	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed: <div style="text-align: right;"> 2 2 </div> Three tardies count as one absence.

student's allowable number of absences. Military duty and absences for Holy Days (FBD LEGAL) are covered in a separate section of the catalog and the student handbook. These are the only excused absences that are considered by Texarkana College. Responsibility for work missed for any absence is placed on the student. Instructors are required to allow students to make up work missed if the absence is due to military duty* or religious holy days when students follow

the correct notification procedures. Instructors are not required to allow students to make up work for absences due to other reasons. Make-up policies are listed in each individual instructor's syllabus.

**Students interested in Health Occupations should check with the division chair prior to entering the program.*

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

After official registration, the following number of unexcused absences will be the maximum allowable before a student **may** be dropped from the class. Mandated program certification requirements detailed for certain programs regarding the maximum allowable unexcused absences takes precedence over the following information.

Academic Classes

Workforce Classes (This does not include Health Occupations. See Health Occupations Handbook regarding absences for that program.)

Day Classes	Evening Classes
<p>Class meets:</p> <p>5 days a week (MTWRF)</p> <p>The instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed five (5) up until the published Last Day for Students to Drop. Absences that exceed this number after the drop day may result in the student receiving an "F" in the program for that semester.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three tardies count as one absence.</p> <p>You are considered tardy from the designated class start time through the first 15 minutes of class. After that you will be counted absent.</p>	<p>Class Meets:</p> <p>4 evenings a week (MTWR)</p> <p>The instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed five (5) up until the published Last Day for Students to Drop. Absences that exceed this number after the drop day may result in the student receiving an "F" in the program for that semester.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three tardies count as one absence.</p> <p>You are considered tardy from the designated class start time through the first 15 minutes of class. After that you will be counted absent.</p>

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 Larry Andrews 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 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.