

EXPECTATIONS AND ROLES:

Instructor: It is the instructor's role to create a learning environment. This includes but is not limited to presenting material in lecture, providing group activities, assigning homework, and giving tests. Also the instructor's role is to provide feedback on student work and tests.

Student: Learning is the student's responsibility — not the instructor's. You are expected to attend and actively participate in class regularly. Actively participate in and complete your assignments on time. Be prepared for tests at the designated time. You are expected to seek any help that you need. In general, what you receive from any course and the grade you obtain will reflect the effort you put into the course.

COURSE INFORMATION & POLICIES:

Website: Chapter summaries for use during lecture are posted on my website: (www.austincc.edu/ccavalli/). Please print your copy and bring it to class in order to have the topics and problems we discuss available.

Blackboard: I will be using Blackboard (<http://aconline.austincc.edu/>) to post grades, post solutions, make announcements, and post other documents, such as the PowerPoints used in class. Please log on and check it out in order to receive current information and to be up to date on any changes. ***It is your responsibility to be aware of items posted on Blackboard and to bring the appropriate documents to class.*** Check for announcements which may give required information about assignments or other class information. Check your grades on a regular basis and make sure that yours are correct based on returned work. Let me know if you have any questions.

Organization: Please keep your assignments so that any possible errors in my grading records can be rectified. This will also allow you to review material for the tests.

Help: If you need help, please get it. I hold office hours as noted. You can email or call me with questions.

Free walk-in tutoring is provided by the Learning Labs at each campus, and I highly recommend this service. Cypress Creek Learning Lab website has their information (www.austincc.edu/cyptutor/cyp_sch.htm).

You are encouraged to work on homework assignments with classmates. However, regardless of the source of help you receive, you are responsible for your own work. If you copy someone else's homework without doing it yourself, you will not understand the material and despite having a good homework grade will not do well in the course.

Homework: Homework is an integral part of this course. You should expect to spend about 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class. It is expected that you will keep up with the reading assignments. The lectures supplement the textbook material. You are also expected to work on your homework assignments regularly and turn them in a timely fashion. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period indicated in the assignment or as directed in class. **Late homework (no more than one week late) will receive half credit. After one week late, homework will receive no credit.**

You may work together on homework and may get help from tutors at the Learning Labs but you must turn in individual homework written in your own words. The homework must be legible in order to be graded.

Exams: The exams will cover about three chapters each. They will occur on **September 9, October 5, October 28, November 23, and December 9** (tentative dates). **YOU MUST TAKE EXAMS DURING THE SCHEDULED TIME UNLESS YOU HAVE A DOCUMENTED EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE OR HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EXAM TIME.**

There will rarely be make-up exams. Contact me before the test (email or phone, if you can't find me in person) if there is an unavoidable emergency. **FAILURE TO DO THIS MAY MEAN A "ZERO" GRADE FOR THAT EXAM.**

There will be an optional comprehensive final given near the end of the semester. If you choose to take the final and then do better on it than on one of the previous exams, it will replace the lowest test grade that is above 50. **You must have taken all previous exams in order to do this.** The **final will not replace a zero from a skipped test** or a test grade lower than 50.

Projects: Everyone will do a research project. The topics and their due dates will be assigned during the first week of class. Your research should expand on some aspect of your topic that is not covered, or not covered fully, in the book. You will be responsible for some sort of presentation of your research--a lecture, a demonstration, an art project, a video, etc.--along with an explanation. It is also important to try to involve the class in some way. A handout with more information on what is expected on the project is included with this syllabus.

Attendance, Withdrawals, Incompletes: Attendance in both lecture and lab is important and expected. Attendance will be taken and will be factored into the final grade. Coming late or leaving early (more than fifteen minutes) will be taken as an absence. *If a student misses all or part of a class, the student is still responsible for the material covered during that session.* Please notify me of your absence ahead of time, if possible. Find out *outside of class* if I have made any changes on assignments, due dates etc. Do not disrupt the class by requesting missing material or assignments due to your tardiness or absence. *Ask outside of class.*

The instructor reserves the right to withdraw students who have more than four unexcused absences. The instructor may also withdraw students for failure to meet course objectives, but makes no commitment to do so. After the withdrawal date each semester, neither the student nor the instructor may initiate a withdrawal. That date is **November 23** this semester. Students are responsible to initiate withdrawals by this date if they so choose.

The grade of "I" (for incomplete) may be given by an instructor for a course in which a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for the passing grade. Incomplete grades will rarely be given, and only if the student has taken all exams, is passing, and has a personal tragedy occur after the last date to withdraw that prevents course completion. If the grade of I is given, the remaining course work must be done by the date set by the student and professor. This date may not be later than two weeks prior to the end of the next semester. See the ACC catalog for more information on Incompletes. <http://www3.austincc.edu/catalog/fy2000/policy.htm>

Scholastic Dishonesty: Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework.

Student Discipline: Classroom behavior should support and enhance learning. Behavior that disrupts the learning process will be dealt with appropriately, which may include having the student leave class for the rest of that day. In serious cases, disruptive behavior may lead to a student being withdrawn from the class. Matters of student discipline will be adjudicated by the instructor on a case-by-case basis, in conjunction with the Department Chair or Dean. Students may consult with the Office of Student Services or the Associate Dean at their campus on these matters. ACC's policy on student discipline can found at <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/policies4.php>

Academic Freedom: Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a search for truth and upon free expression. In this course the professor and students shall strive to protect free inquiry and the open exchange of facts, ideas, and opinions. Students are free to take exception to views offered in this course and to reserve judgment about debatable issues. With this freedom comes the responsibility of civility and a respect for a diversity of ideas and opinions. This means that students must take turns speaking, listen to others speak without interruption, and refrain from name-calling or other personal attacks. Grades will not be affected by personal views. However, instructors will judge student work based upon its relation to the current state of mainstream scientific fact and theory.

Safety: Health and safety are paramount values in science classrooms, laboratories and field activities. You are expected to learn, understand and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow the ACC science safety policy. You are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be immediately dismissed from the day's activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities. You can read the complete ACC science safety policy at: http://www2.austincc.edu/sci_safe/.

Students with Disabilities: Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.

Students who are requesting accommodation must provide the instructor with a letter of accommodation from the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) at the beginning of the semester. Accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the letter of accommodation from OSD.

Student Handbook, Student Services, Instructional Services, Learning Labs and Testing Center websites:

The ACC student handbook can be found at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/>

The web address for Student Support & Success Systems is: <http://www.austincc.edu/support/>

The web address for Student Support Services Overview is:

<http://www3.austincc.edu/evpcss/newsemester/pdfs/ssover.pdf>

The Learning Labs have free tutoring. The website is <http://www.austincc.edu/tutor/>

ACC Testing Center policies can be found at: <http://www.austincc.edu/testctr/>

COURSE OUTLINE and CALENDAR:

The calendar we will follow is on the following page. Please try to read the material before coming to class so you can ask questions and take part in classroom discussions. Reading and homework assignments will be given for each section. Homework due dates and tentative exam dates are shown on the calendar.

Current astronomy news will be discussed in each class period and it will be covered on tests and quizzes. Each student will be assigned to bring in news at least once, but anyone may share astronomy news on any day. You can find astronomy news in the newspaper, current magazines, on various TV shows, and on several Internet sites.

ASTRONOMY 1403: Stellar Astronomy with Lab

Fall 2009

(These dates and assignments are subject to change.)

Date	Lecture	Homework Due	Other Assignments
August 24	Introduction, Chapter 1: Charting the Heavens		
August 26	Chapter 1 & Chapter 3: Radiation		
August 31	Chapter 3 & Chapter 4: Spectroscopy	Chapter 1	
September 2	Chapter 4 & 5 Telescopes		
September 7	Chapter 5 and Review	Chapter 3	
September 9	<u>Test 1</u>	Chapters 4 & 5	
September 14	Chapter 17: The Stars		
September 16	Chapter 17		
September 21	Chapter 18: The Interstellar Medium	Chapter 17	
September 23	Chapter 18 & 19: Star Formation		
September 28	Chapter 19	Chapter 18	
September 30	Chapter 19 & Review		
October 5	<u>Test 2</u>	Chapter 19	
October 7	Chapter 20: Stellar Evolution		
October 12	Chapter 20		
October 14	Chapter 21: Stellar Explosions	Chapter 20	
October 19	Chapter 21		
October 21	Chapter 22: Neutron Stars & Black Holes	Chapter 21	
October 26	Chapter 22 & Review		
October 28	<u>Test 3</u>	Chapter 22	
November 2	Chapter 23: The Milky Way Galaxy		
November 4	Chapter 23		
November 9	Chapter 24: Galaxies	Chapter 23	
November 11	Chapter 24 & 25: Galaxies & Dark Matter		
November 16	Chapter 25	Chapter 24	
November 18	Chapter 25 & Review		
November 23	<u>Test 4</u>		<i>Last day to withdraw</i>
November 25	Chapter 26: Cosmology		
November 30	Chapter 26 and 27: The Early Universe		
December 2	Chapter 27	Chapter 26	
December 7	Chapter 27 & Review		
December 9	<u>Test 5</u>	Chapter 27	

ASTRONOMY 1403 PROJECT

Your project should focus on some aspect of your subject upon which you can expand. **I don't want you to just tell us what is in the book.** We can read that ourselves! You must find information beyond what is in the book. Possible sources of further information are **new** books (2007 or newer), magazines such as "Astronomy" or "Planetary Society" and the Internet (be careful about your sources, as some are more reliable than others). Make sure you credit your sources. (No plagiarism!) Talk to me if you are having trouble.

Outline (19%)

Give me a **brief summary outline** of your topic and **list your references**. You should have at least three references besides the textbook.

Presentation (27%)

Give about a five to ten minute presentation on your topic. You may give a lecture or videotape your presentation. **Don't just read your presentation!!**

Visual Aids (27%)

Use some visual aid(s) to help you present your topic. Possibilities (not limited to these):

- Power Point presentation
- Poster
- Model
- Movie
- Charts or graphs
- Overheads or chalkboard work
- Other visual aids

Class Participation (27%)

Try to involve the class by using one or more of the following:

- Demonstrations
- Leading questions
- Games
- Other activity

Each section (Outline, Presentation, Visual Aid, and Class Participation) counts towards your grade. **A sample gradesheet for the project is given on the following page.** To help me determine the grade, I ask each student in the class to fill in a comment sheet for each project. Generally the remarks are helpful.

Topic_____

Student_____

Outline (19%)

Thorough and current? (Information beyond what is in the book?)

References given? (At least three besides the textbook?)

Presentation (27%):

On time?

Prepared?

Speaking style. (Didn't just read information.)

Visual Aids (27%):

What type(s) of visual aids?

Factual?

Interesting/creative?

Class Participation (27%):

What type(s) of class participation used?

Interesting/creative?

Helped students learn the material?

Other Comments:

ASTR 1403 Internet Sites List

The following are good places to start when looking for astronomy information. My website has links to help you as well. (www2.austincc.edu/ccavalli/)

<http://www.nasa.gov/home/> The NASA website has an enormous amount of information on astronomical topics. This is a good starting place for any search. It also has links to other sites that are reliable.

<http://outreach.as.utexas.edu/public/index.html> The University of Texas Department of Astronomy and McDonald Observatory sponsor several public outreach programs. Links to these are on this webpage. The Astronomy Department hosts three weekly viewing nights for the public while UT is in session. That information is also on this site.

<http://www.austinastro.org/> The Austin Astronomical Society is a local group of astronomers who hold star parties and other activities. See their website for more information.

<http://www.planetary.org/> Primarily about the Solar System, this site has a variety of links to other astronomy sites that go beyond our planets and out into the universe.

<http://www.badastronomy.com/> In this case, Bad Astronomy means astronomy myths, misconceptions and misinformation in movies, TV, books, and the news. Phil Plait also includes links to other interesting sites.

<http://www.austincc.edu/jheath/events.htm> Jim Heath, another ACC astronomy professor, has a website with lots of useful information. This link takes you directly to his events page which gives information about star parties. Check out the rest of his website. He includes a long list of astronomy links that you are encouraged to explore. He also has a math help section for those who are interested.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/calendar/allyears.html> This site features an “astronomy picture of the day”, with information about the subject of the picture. You can look up previous pictures and other information here as well.

<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/> This site tells how to let your computer help analyze data that may contain signals from extraterrestrial intelligence. It also has discussions and articles on the subject for further reference. Several competing groups are trying to analyze the most data. Check it out!

<http://csep10.phys.utk.edu/astr161/lect/index.html> This is a useful site for explanations of Kepler’s Laws and other astronomical topics. It also has some links to animations of a variety of topics.

<http://skyandtelescope.com/Default.asp> Information about observing, including guides to telescopes and photography is the primary focus here. An interactive sky chart gives a customized sky chart for any location on Earth, on any date, at any time.

There are many other internet sites, but some of them are unreliable. If you start with these sites, you should get good information. The librarian has a large list of sources as well. If you still can’t find what you are looking for, please ask me and I’ll try to help.

STUDENT COPY

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

STELLAR ASTRONOMY with LAB

Astronomy 1403, Section 002, Synonym 43864

Dr. Christina Cavalli

Fall 2009

I affirm that I have read a complete copy of the syllabus for this course. I understand that by signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by the terms, conditions, procedures, deadlines, and penalties described in this syllabus and that my failure to comply can result in my failing this course. I also affirm that I have the prerequisites for this course. (Prerequisites: MATD 0390 or two years of high school algebra or equivalent. One year of high school science recommended, but not required.) If I have any questions concerning the requirements, I will first consult my course syllabus and then contact the instructor for further assistance.

Print name: _____

Sign name: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Optional question: Is there anything I need to know about you that will help you succeed in this class?