

Note 1:

We will make use of the online resources related to this book. A new book includes access to www.masteringastronomy.com. Buying a used book is not likely to save you much money, as you will need to purchase the online content separately at <http://www.masteringastronomy.com>.

Note 2:

This is not the same text as *The Essential Cosmic Perspective* by the same authors.

Note 3:

An older edition of this text, *The Cosmic Perspective* (4th Edition), ISBN 0-8053-6647-4 is an acceptable edition of this text and may be available used through online resellers. As noted previously, you will need to purchase the online content separately at <http://www.masteringastronomy.com>.

Policies

University Policies

There are several important University policies of which you should be aware, such as the add/drop policy; cheating and plagiarism policy, grade appeal procedures; accommodations for students with disabilities and the diversity vision statement.

Go to this URL for details:

<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>

Grading

***Attendance / Participation* 10 %**

I will occasionally and randomly require students to sign attendance. I will also make note of participation during in-class discussion and the asking of pertinent questions. Finally, I encourage at least one office visit during the semester.

***Online Homework* 30 %**

Homework will be made available and must be completed at the www.masteringastronomy.com website. Our Course ID is **SSU2009FALL**

***In-class Quizzes (5)* 30 %**

There will be five in-class quizzes covering sections of our course material. The dates are listed in the schedule below. Students are required to bring their own NCS Scanning forms for these quizzes. They are available at the University Bookstore. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

***Observing Assignment* 5 %**

Submit a one-page account of your experience observing with a telescope during the semester. Include the date, time, observatory, a description of the telescope(s) and what you observed. You may attend one of the [Public Viewing Nights](#) scheduled monthly at the [SSU Observatory](#), or observe elsewhere as detailed below. Here is the Fall Semester

schedule of the Public Viewing Nights. Call before coming if it appears possible that clouds or fog may force cancellation: (707) 664-2267.

- Sep 18 8:00-10:00 A tour of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy
- Oct 9 8:00-10:00 Jupiter (the planet) and Saturn (the nebula!)
- Nov 13 6:00-8:00 The North American Nebula and Jupiter
- Dec 4 6:00-8:00 The Andromeda Galaxy and the Blue Snowball
- See <http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/publicviewingnight.shtml> for details

Off campus, there are observing opportunities at the [Robert H. Ferguson Observatory](#) and several other places that can be found via [The Astronomy Connection](#), the [Astronomical Association of Northern California](#), or the [Sonoma County Astronomical Society](#).

This submission must be made via the “Observing Assignment” link available at the course WebCT page. The following file formats are acceptable: MS Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, and plain text (.txt)

This assignment is due within two weeks after you make your observations, but no later than the last day of classes. Check spelling of astronomical terms by looking them up in your text or on the web. Warning: There may be an increasing percentage of cloudy nights as the semester progresses. Take advantage of good weather as soon as you can.

Final Exam **25 %**

There will be a cumulative final exam, Thursday, December 17th, 5:00 – 6:50 PM. Students are required to bring their own NCS Scanning forms for this exam. They are available at the University Bookstore.

Extra Credit **up to 9%**

Extra Credit is available for attending a public talk on some current astronomical or physics topic and submitting a one-page synopsis via WebCT. The submission will be checked for originality. You may submit up to three synopses for three different talks. Each is worth up to 3% extra credit, meaning you can earn up to 9% total extra credit on your course grade. The assignments are graded on a scale from one to three based on presenting a one-page, double-spaced, coherent and comprehensive summary of the talk. Researching and defining unclear concepts is recommended.

The [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) will present a free public lecture in its renowned “[What Physicists Do](#)” series Mondays during the semester, from August 31st through November 23rd at 4:00 p.m. in Darwin 103. The lectures on August 31st, September 21st, 28th, October 12th, 19th, 26th, November 2nd and 9th should be of special interest to you as you study astronomy. See the following URL for details: <http://phys-astro.sonoma.edu/wpd/>. Other appropriate external work may be substituted with instructor approval.

Instructor Discretion

I reserve the right to raise your grade if exceptional effort and class participation are observed through the semester. Improvement throughout the semester is also noted.

Course Standards

This course is not graded on a curve but will follow an absolute scale. The following is a likely distribution of grades according to percentage of possible credit. I reserve the right to adjust this scale accordingly based on the class aggregate performance on the course assignments.

<i>A</i>	<i>> 95 %</i>
<i>A-</i>	<i>90-95 %</i>
<i>B+</i>	<i>86-89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>82-85 %</i>
<i>B-</i>	<i>78-81 %</i>
<i>C+</i>	<i>74-77 %</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>70-73 %</i>
<i>C-</i>	<i>66-69 %</i>
<i>D+</i>	<i>62-65 %</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>58-61 %</i>
<i>D-</i>	<i>54-57 %</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>< 54 %</i>

Other Class Policies

- Questions are encouraged.
- Turn off cell phones and other distracting small electronics.
- Arrive to class on time.
- Try your best to attend every class.
- Read subject material before each class.
- Start homework problems early. Do not fall behind!
- Come to my office during my office hours with questions.

CSU Employee Furloughs – Impact on Classes

This year across this campus and around the CSU system some class days will be cancelled because of furloughs. A furlough is mandatory un-paid time off; faculty and staff on each CSU campus are being “furloughed” two days per month.

These cancelled class days are marked on your syllabus above. It is important to recognize that these days off are not holidays. Instead, they are concrete examples of how massive state budget cuts have consequences for you as students and for me as a faculty member.

The CSU has suffered chronic underfunding for at least 10 years. This year the budget cuts are the worst in the history of our university system — \$584 million or 20% of our budget.

The CSU administration is attempting to deal with these cuts with increases in your student fees (32%), eliminations of your classes, and lay-offs of faculty and other university employees.

In addition to paying higher fees, you will be affected by reduced services and classes. The library will have shorter hours. Many campus support services will be decreased or eliminated. It will be more difficult to get signatures to meet deadlines. Classes you need may have been cut from the class schedule or are full.

If you would like to take action or simply learn more, I recommend you contact the California Faculty Association located on campus in Stevenson 3004-A.

Course Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Cosmic Perspective Chapter Reading	HW Due (Thursday)	Quizzes (Thursday)
1	-	Aug 27	-		
2	Sep 01	Sep 03	1.1, 1.2		
3	Sep 08	Sep 10	2.1-2.3	Intro	
4	Sep 15	Sep 17	3.1, 3.3-3.5, 4	1	1 (Chapters 1-3)
5	Sep 22	Furlough	5		
6	Sep 29	Oct 01	6.1-6.3	2	
7	Oct 06	Oct 08	7.1-7.2, 10.1, 11.1-11.2	3	2 (Chapters 3-6)
8	Oct 13	Furlough	12, 13.1		
9	Oct 20	Oct 22	14.1-14.2	4	3 (Chapters 7-13)
10	Oct 27	Oct 29	15		
11	Nov 03	Nov 05	16.1, 17.1-17.3	5	
12	Nov 10	Nov 12	S3.3, 18.1-18.3		
13	Nov 17	Nov 19	19.1,19.2,19.4	6 + Review	4 (Chapters 14-18+S3.3)
14	Furlough	-			
15	Dec 01	Dec 03	20, 21.1		
16	Dec 08	Dec 10	22, 23.1-23.2	7	5 (Chapters 19-21)
17	-	Dec 17	-	Chs. 22 & 23 X-Cr. Review Due by Final	Cumulative Final Thursday, December 17 5:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.