

## Astronomy 104 - Introduction to Astronomy of Stars and Galaxies (Summer II- 2012)

Introductory astronomy is a course which hopefully challenges the student to take a critical look at Nature, both qualitatively and quantitatively. The student shall also have access to the use of telescopes, including the 15-inch Grubb refractor from the late 1800s and a 25-inch reflector, to see with one's own eyes some of what the Universe has to offer. It is hoped, that upon completion, the student will have a deeper appreciation for the Universe and his/her place in it.

The topics to be covered include: a history of man's ideas concerning his place in the Universe, astronomy to the Ancients, basic astrometry and spherical astronomy, the magnitude system, telescopes, basic orbital mechanics, the interstellar medium, star formation, stellar structure and evolution, variable stars, compact objects, galactic morphology, kinematics and dynamics, formation of galaxies, active galactic nuclei, quasars, the universe at large, its formation and fate.

A class session shall consist of two lectures, each approximately 50 minutes in length, with a short interval in-between. In addition, there is a laboratory session lasting two hours in length twice per week. This is where most observations will be done, and is thus an integral part of the course. There will be a cumulative final examination. The result of the final examination and participation in the laboratory will determine the course mark. It is important to note, that three unexcused (3) absences from the laboratory, will result in a failure of the *entire* course independent of performance on the examination.<sup>1</sup>

The marking scheme will be:

A: 100-90, A-: 90-85, B+: 85-80, B: 80-70, B-: 70-65, C+: 65-60, C: 60-50, C-: 50-40, F: 40-0.

Text: *The Cosmic Perspective* by Bennett, et al.

Class sessions: M-Th 13:00 to 14:50 in Lewis Hall room 101

Laboratory sessions: Either M and W or T and Th 21.00 to 22.50 in room 1 of Lewis Hall.

Office Hours: Evenings (18:00 - 20:00) at High Point Coffee on Square, or by arrangement.

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<sup>1</sup>Two (2) such absences will result in the final mark being lowered one full mark.