

Course Syllabus

Lecturer: Dr. D. J. Drake
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Office: Nevins Hall 3026
Office hours: TR 10:00-11:00 AM and 12:30-1:30 PM, and by appointment

Suggest Textbook: Pathways to Astronomy by Schneider and Army or purchase ANY text in general astronomy

Corequisite/Prerequisite: None

Hours of Credit: 3

Course Schedule: Note that this is a hybrid course which will only be meeting face to face on the first day of class and then again for each of the three tests and the final exam. The time of that meeting will be T&R 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM in Nevins Hall 2075. All lecture notes are available online in Blazeview and are divided up for each week the course will meet.

Course Description: This is a lecture course designed for non-science majors. Topics include light, motion, gravity, formation of the sun and planets, stars, galaxies, cosmology, and celestial phenomena such as eclipses, lunar phases, seasons. Although this is not a math-intensive course, a working knowledge of high school-level algebra is assumed.

Core Curriculum Objectives:

Area D: Students will demonstrate understanding of the physical universe and the changing nature of science, and they will use scientific methods and/or mathematical reasoning and concepts to solve problems.

Departmental Curriculum Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge in the fundamental branches of physics
2. Students will apply techniques of mathematical analysis (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus) to physics problems.

Final Course Grade: A letter grade is determined only at the end of the term. Course grades will be based on test grades, final exam grade, assigned homework, and class participation

Test 1	200 points
Test 2	200 points
Test 3	200 points
Quizzes	250 points (25 points each)
Weekly Assignments	280 points (20 points each)
Final Exam	200 points

Final Letter Grade based on total number of points:

- A 1200 – 1330 points
- B 1000 – 1199 points
- C 750 – 999 points
- D 600 – 749 points
- F 0 – 599 points

Final Exam: The final exam for this class will be held on *Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 8:00 am*. Although the final exam will be cumulative, a majority of the exam will be devoted to material covered after Test 3. You will be allowed pencil/pen and scrap paper. **No calculators will be allowed in the exam.** All tests must be submitted by the due date and time with no exceptions. A make-up exam can be granted only if the absence is considered an excused absence as listed in the attendance policy below and is at the discretion of the professor.

Tests: During this semester you will have three closed book tests. The first will be held on September 10th, the second on October 8th, and the third on November 5th. You will be allowed pencil/pen and scrap paper. All tests must be turned in at the end of the class period with no exceptions. No student is allowed to share scrap paper with any other student. **No calculators will be allowed for use on the test.** Make-up tests can be granted only if the absence is considered an excused absence as listed in the attendance policy below and is at the discretion of the professor. **You may not have a cell phone on or near your person during any of the three tests in this course. If one is found, you will automatically receive a 0 for that test grade and be asked to leave the room.** This includes but is not limited to being on the floor under your seat, clipped to your belt, or sitting on another desk or chair nearby.

Homework: Homework problems will be provided on Blazeview each week. Although homework is not required as part of the grade for this course, it is strongly recommended that you try each homework assignment on your own to help practice the concepts you are learning in the lecture.

Quizzes and weekly assignments: Quizzes and weekly assignments will be given about once a week on Blazeview. It is the responsibility of the student to complete them by the due date. There are **no make-ups** for missed quizzes or weekly assignments. **No grades are dropped for any quizzes or weekly assignments.** Your final grade is based upon an average of all grades you earned throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy: The university attendance policy states, "The university expects that all students shall regularly attend all scheduled class meetings held for instruction or examination." An attendance sheet will be provided at all lectures, recitation, and laboratory meetings. You are expected to sign the sheet for all scheduled sessions. In addition, "All students are held responsible for knowing the specific attendance requirements as prescribed by their instructor. . . . When

students are to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor. A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.” For this course, attendance will be based on completion of the weekly assignments and attendance on the day of each test.

There are **six categories** of acceptable reasons under which a student may request a make-up test or exam. Make-up tests will be determined by the professor and at the sole discretion of the professor. These assignments may or may not exactly duplicate the original test or exam.

- **Death or serious illness in the immediate family.** The immediate family includes spouse, children, parent, siblings, grandparents and uncles/aunts. Verification may be required.
- **Serious illness or injury of the student.** A physician/health care professional must be consulted about the injury or illness, and home-rest or hospitalization that would prevent your attendance, must be prescribed. ***Required Verification:*** A letter from the student’s physician is required, noting the duration of the time that the student was directed to rest at home.
- **Court ordered appearances or a call to jury duty.** ***Required Verification:*** A copy of the official notification.
- **Military duty and deployments.** ***Required Verification:*** A duty bill, note from the commanding officer or a copy of the deployment orders is required.
- **Religious prohibitions.** Verification may be required.
- **Collegiate Athlete.** Verification required.

Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI): At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses three days after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs, and student compliance may be considered in the determination of the final course grade. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/directions-for-accessing-and-completing-sois.php>

Disruptive Behavior Policy: Disruptive students may be removed from the class. Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to: offensive language and behavior, incessant talking, interrupting class with personal or non-academic concerns, distracting students from the task at

hand, drawing on desk tops, taking frequent unscheduled breaks, annoying other students, tardiness, leaving early, using cell phones, or pagers in class, etc. Students are responsible for being aware of the policies, procedures and student responsibilities contained within the current edition of the Valdosta State University Catalog and Student Handbook.

Classroom Emergency Procedure: In the event of a bomb threat, tornado, or fire, students and staff may be asked to evacuate the building or move to a secure location within the building. Evacuation routes for movement to an external location or to a shelter within the building are posted at the front of the room. Students should review the maps and make sure that the exit route and assembly location for the building are clearly understood. If you have a disability that may require assistance during an evacuation, please let your faculty know at the end of the first class.

Disability Services Policy: Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. As such, students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

Students Experiencing Academic Difficulties: The Physics and Astronomy Learning Center, located in Nevins Hall 3027 will have tutors available starting the second week of class. Look for a schedule of days/times on the door. Students with academic concerns are strongly encouraged to use the learning center. Students who would like one-on-one tutoring can also contact the staff of the Student Success Center or call them at 229-333-7570. The Student Success Center is located on first floor of Langdale Residence Hall on the main VSU campus. Services provided by the Success Center include tutoring, writing assistance, and help with time management. Students are encouraged to make appointments with Center Staff through the website or by telephone. The

center is available to all VSU students, and evening appointments are available at www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

Technology Assistance: This course may require access to a computer. Students having technology problems may contact the Help Desk by phone at 229-245-4357 or e-mail a question at helpdesk@valdosta.edu. The Help Desk is located on the 2nd floor of the Odum Library.

Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty Policy: Students are expected to abide by the VSU Academic Integrity code. "Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics." Violation of academic honesty includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Cheating on an examination or quiz – either giving or receiving information.
2. Copying information from another person for graded assignments, including that information obtained from an Internet source.
3. Using unauthorized materials during tests.
4. Collaborating during examinations.
5. Buying, selling, or stealing examinations.
6. Arranging a substitute for oneself during an examination.
7. Substituting for another person or arranging such a substitution.
8. Plagiarism – the intentional or accidental presentation of another's words or ideas as your own.
9. Submission of work other than your own for written assignments.
10. Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
11. Collaboration with another person or persons in submitting work for credit in class unless such collaboration is approved in advance by the instructor.

Any student found committing any of these violations will automatically receive a failing grade for the entire course. For more information, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php>

Course Compliance Statement: Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.