

COURSE SYLLABUS: Solar System Astronomy 1400-001, Spring 2010
TT 8:00-9:20, Science Room 007

Instructor: Dr. Mahdi Sanati

Office hours: open door policy, 46 Science Building, m.sanati@ttu.edu, Phone: 742-3759

Course materials (in order of importance):

- Your well-written lecture notes and the class presentations by the instructor.
- Textbook: "The Cosmic Perspective" 6th edition by Bennet et al. Addison Wesley
- We will study chapters 1-14 + Space and Time + Spacetime and Gravity+ Elementary Particles

Exams and Grades: Midterm 30%, Final examination 40%, homework 10%, laboratory 20%;
100-A-88-B-76-C-64-D-52-F-0

Attendance: Required, except for excused emergencies. Each recorded absence counts as -2% and will be deducted from the course total. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor; students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

The examinations cover the material from class and your lecture notes, as well as the lecture demonstrations and the online homework. The examinations are closed book, except for a 3"x5" note card or a formula sheet will be provided.

Make-up examinations will not be given. In a serious emergency, please contact me with documentation and find out how the missed grade will be determined.

The Homework is assigned and submitted online. You can find the home works on following site: www.masteringastronomy.com and the class ID is: **MASANATISP10**. Register as soon as possible and submit each homework set by the specified deadline. Do the homework yourself, not in groups! The grades on the examinations reflect how well you can do the homework problems on your own.

Advice: Spend at least **10 hours** outside of class each week on the lectures. (The laboratory is extra.) If you ignore this, you will almost certainly receive a grade of **D** or **F**. Spend much time studying your **lecture notes** and do the homework yourself. I often take exam questions from the lectures and the homework.

Course Objectives: *Students will learn:*

- The Sun, planets, moons, asteroids, comets, gravitation, and formation of solar system
- Introduction to special and general theories of relativity, stars and black holes
- Introduction to elementary particles physics

Learning Assessment: Certain problems and questions on the exams will explicitly require facility with the course objectives and be used as learning assessment tools.

Examination Security: The examinations are composed uniquely for this semester and include a formal **copyright notice** reserving all rights of reproduction and distribution. Do not be misled by exploitive businesses that their materials may substitute for proper exam preparation.

Disability: Any student, who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be made. Proper documentation about the disability must be presented from the Dean of Student's office.