

AST 101-2E Astronomy of the Universe -- Fall 2005

Course Syllabus

Instructor: [Perry Gerakines](#)

Office: Campbell Hall, room 383

Office Hours: Tu, Th 3:15-4:15pm (or by appointment)

Telephone: 934-8064

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Lecture: Tu, Th 2:00-3:15pm in CH 301

Website: www.phy.uab.edu/~gerakine/ast101.html

Course Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of modern astronomy• Astronomical tools and measurements• Space, time, light, and gravity• The origin and evolution of the universe
Course Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon successful completion of this course, you will<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) possess a basic knowledge of astronomy and its related concepts, terminologies, and methods,(b) be able to discuss the specific course topics in a variety of contexts.
Required Textbooks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Astronomy: from the Earth to the Universe (6th edition), by Jay Pasachoff (ISBN 0534421970).2. A Brief History of Time, by Stephen Hawking (ISBN 0553380168).
Homework:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be 3 written homework assignments, due two weeks from the day assigned. You will use 1 page to discuss a current event in astronomy in terms of class topics. Each is worth 8.33% of your course grade.
Exams:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be 6 closed notes, closed book, exams-- 5 in-class exams plus the Final Exam. They contain both multiple-choice and short-answer questions. In-class exams cover all lecture materials since the previous exam. The Final Exam covers the entire semester's course material. Each is worth 15% toward your final course grade, and the lowest score will be dropped.• The exam dates and HW due dates are listed in the course schedule. It is your responsibility to make any arrangements necessary to resolve conflicts with these dates. If you must miss a quiz, please note:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <u>No make-up quizzes will be given for pre-arranged absences.</u> You must notify me at least 1 week ahead of time and arrange to take the quiz early. No exceptions.◦ <u>Make-up quizzes will only be given for verifiable emergencies.</u> I must be contacted within 3 days of the scheduled quiz date. No exceptions.
Grades:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course grades will be determined by the following formula:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Avg of best 5 out of 6 exams = 75% of your grade◦ Avg of 3 homework scores = 25% of your grade• Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = >90%, B = 80-89.9%, C=70-79.9%, D = 60-69.9%, F = <60%.
Academic Honesty:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All students are expected to adhere to the UAB Academic Honor Code as listed in the student handbook. (Please see: http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=38715&site=1942&return=3577.) Any acts that violate the honor code (cheating, etc.) will be dealt with aggressively as specified in the Code.
Students with disabilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efforts will be made to accommodate students with disabilities in this class. Requests must be made through the Disability Support Services office. For information, contact Disability Support Services at dss@uab.edu, 934-4205 or look up Disabilities Support Services on the UAB Web page.
Cellular phone policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of cellular phones or pagers during class is not permitted. Please practice respect for your classmates and the instructor by turning phones off and putting them away before class starts.
Suggested additional reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>New York Times</i> "Science Times" section; every Tuesday; \$1.• <i>Sky & Telescope</i> magazine; monthly; \$5.50; also in the UAB Sterne Library.• <i>The Whole Shebang</i>, by Timothy Ferris.• www.nasa.gov; www.space.com; SkyAndTelescope.com; NY Times Science Times (free subscr. req.)

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