

**AST 102-2E Astronomy of Stellar Systems -- Spring 2005****Course Syllabus****Instructor:** [Perry Gerakines](#)**Office:** Campbell Hall, room 383**Office Hours:** Wed 2-3pm (or by appointment)**Telephone:** 934-8064**Email:** [gerak@uab.edu](mailto:gerak@uab.edu)**Lecture:** Tues, Thurs 2:00-3:15pm in CH 301**Website:** [www.phy.uab.edu/~gerakine/ast102.html](http://www.phy.uab.edu/~gerakine/ast102.html)

<b>Course Topics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods and technologies used to observe the stars</li> <li>• How the scientific data are obtained and interpreted</li> <li>• What powers the Sun and the stars?</li> <li>• The lifecycles of stars and the interstellar medium</li> <li>• The Milky Way Galaxy as a system of stars</li> </ul>
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main objectives of this course are             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to understand the scientific issues and terminologies associated with the study of stars and galaxies, and</li> <li>2. to be able to discuss these issues in a variety of astronomical contexts.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THE LECTURE. Attendance is necessary! Attendance will be taken from time to time and will count toward your course grade.</li> <li>• REQUIRED TEXTBOOK. <a href="#">Astronomy: from the Earth to the Universe (6/e)</a>, by Jay Pasachoff.</li> </ul>
<b>Exams and Grading Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course grades will be determined by the following formula:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 65% of grade = 5 in-class Quizzes</li> <li>◦ 25% of grade = Final Exam (comprehensive)</li> <li>◦ 10% of grade = Attendance and Participation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each week, a speculation question will be posed in the form of "<a href="#">the question of the week</a>" and will pertain to topics not yet discussed in class. One point will be added to the next in-class quiz for each speculation question you answer well.</li> <li>• The in-class quizzes will be given on the dates listed in <a href="#">the course schedule</a>. These dates have been pre-determined and supplied to you in order to give you the time to resolve any conflicts before they arise. It is your responsibility to make any arrangements necessary to resolve these conflicts.</li> <li>• REGARDING MISSED QUIZZES AND MAKE-UPS:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <u>No make-up quizzes will be given for non-emergency, pre-arranged absences.</u> If you have a pre-arranged absence, it is your responsibility to notify me AT LEAST 1 WEEK AHEAD OF TIME and arrange to take the quiz early. No exceptions.</li> <li>◦ <u>Make-up quizzes will ONLY be given in the case of verifiable emergencies,</u> and I must be contacted WITHIN 3 DAYS of the scheduled quiz date. No exceptions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Cheating policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any copying out of a book, website, or other person's work will be considered an incident of cheating.</i> This applies to all work you hand in to me.</li> <li>• I will follow this procedure:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 1st offense: no credit for that quiz/paper.</li> <li>◦ 2nd offense: you will receive a failing grade for the course and be turned in for academic misconduct.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Suggested additional reading:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>New York Times' Science Times</i> section published every Tuesday; costs \$1.</li> <li>• <i>Sky &amp; Telescope</i> magazine; monthly; costs \$5.50 per issue; also can be found in the UAB Sterne Library.</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.nasa.gov">www.nasa.gov</a>; <a href="http://www.space.com">www.space.com</a>; <a href="http://SkyAndTelescope.com">SkyAndTelescope.com</a></li> </ul>

[AST 102](#) -- [Gerakines](#) -- [UAB Physics](#) -- [UAB main page](#)

**[Official Disclaimer](#)**


---

Last modified: *Mon 3 Jan 2005*