

Astronomy 103 4A : Astronomy of the Solar System

TR 3:00 – 5:05 :: Education Building 126

Required Text: *The New Solar System: 4th Ed.* Beatty, Petersen, Chaikin

Instructor: Dr. Robert Mohr : rmohr@uab.edu : 382 CH : 205-934-8107

Office Hours: MTWR 1:30 – 3:00; or by appt.

This is an introductory astronomy course that focuses on the formation and evolution of our solar system. Major topics include the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, meteors, and comets. The main purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the scientific thought process, and then apply that process to the study of how both our solar system as a whole and its individual members evolve and interact. At the end of the semester, the student should be able to discuss various processes that contribute to the understanding of why our solar system appears as it does today.

There will be three homework assignments this semester, each one consisting of two questions that should be at least one half page each and at most one page each. For full credit homework papers should either be legible or typed. Homework assignments will be given on Tuesday of the week indicated below and are due the following Tuesday.

There will be five quizzes this semester, each one consisting of ten short answer questions. You will have a time of 30 minutes for each quiz.

The final examination will be cumulative. It will consist of 15 short answer questions and one discussion question. Each short answer question will be worth 5 points and the discussion question will be worth 25 points. All quizzes are tentatively scheduled for the days shown on the attached calendar.

Any make-up will be determined on a case by case basis.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Homework: 30% of overall grade

Quiz: 40% of overall grade ::::::::::: Final Exam: 30% of overall grade

Tentatively, the following averages will result in the indicated grade:

89.5 - 100: A	79.5 - 89.4: B	69.5 - 79.4: C
	59.5 - 69.4: D	Below 59.5: F

These scales are not completely rigid but extenuating circumstances must be present for deviation. Attendance is not required; however, a valid excuse is needed in order to make up a missed quiz or late homework.

Below is a tentative schedule of material to be covered as well as homework assignments and quizzes:

June 1:	Chapter 1-2	
June 6:	Chapter 3	
June 8:	Chapter 4	
June 13:	Chapter 5-6	
June 15:	Chapter 7	Quiz One
June 20:	Chapter 8	Homework One
June 22:	Chapter 9	
June 27:	Chapter 10	
June 29:	Chapter 11	
July 4:	No Class due to Holiday	
July 6:	Chapter 12-13	Quiz Two
July 11:	Chapter 14-15	Last Day to Withdraw
July 13:	Chapter 16-19	Quiz Three
July 18:	Chapter 20-23	Homework 2
July 20:	Chapter 24-26	
July 25:	Chapter 27-28	Quiz Four
July 27:	Review for Final	Homework 3
August 1:	Review for Final	Quiz Five
Final Examination:	Thursday August 3	4:15 – 6:45