

AST 100: Astronomy Today Syllabus

Instructor

Prof. Will M. Farr

Contact

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- Course Materials are Accessible via [Brightspace](#)

Class Times

1400 to 1450 Mondays in Humanities 3015

Office Hours

Tuesdays, 1200 to 1500, ESS 457B

Learning Outcomes

Students will give a presentation to their peers about a current astronomy topic, participate in discussions, and give critical feedback on the presentations by the other students.

Grading

50% Presentation, 50% participation, attendance, and feedback write-ups.

Class Logistics

Each student will make a single presentation and participate in the discussions for the other students' presentations. For each presentation, the presenter should upload the presentation as a separate topic under the class discussion forum. Each presentation will be 10-15 minutes long. After each presentation the class will discuss the subject together as a group. Each student should post constructive feedback on the discussion topic on Brightspace—students will be assessed on their feedback to their peers.

Note: students will be assigned a presentation date randomly—see below. If necessary they can swap with one of their classmates, but must alert the instructor two weeks in advance of the original presentation date. The schedule of talks will be posted on Brightspace.

Presenter's responsibilities

Each student will pick a presentation topic based on a recent discovery or article in astronomy. Topics have to be chosen at least 1 week in advance, and are reserved by e-mailing the instructor. Topics are first-come, first-served; you cannot repeat a topic already presented by another student.

Students will lead the discussion on their topic by preparing a 10-15 minute presentation on the subject and uploading it to a new topic thread in the Brightspace discussion forum. If the student is not prepared or the presentation is inadequate, the student may be asked to present again at a later date, resulting in a penalty on the presentation grade.

The student will field questions about the topic from the class during / after the talk, in class or on the blackboard forum, with help from the instructor only when necessary.

Non-presenter's responsibilities

For those weeks you are not presenting you will do the following:

- The student will attend all presentations each week.

- The student will participate in the post-presentation discussion and, if appropriate, provide some verbal feedback.
- The student will provide feedback on the Brightspace discussion thread started by the presenter. Feedback will comment on
 - Content: was the content interesting, at an appropriate level, complete, presented with context?
 - Clarity: could you understand the content? Was the background and context appropriate to place the content in context? Are there formatting / presentation suggestions for the speaker?
 - Learning: what did you learn from the speaker? What questions do you still have? Is there more the speaker could have done to answer / engage with questions?

For full participation credit, students should provide constructive and substantive feedback on Brightspace for at least 80% of the presentations in the course. Comments should be uploaded by the Wednesday following each presentation.

Grades

Letter grades will be based on a standard grade scale (i.e. an overall score > 90/100 would be an A- or better). However, if necessary, a curve will be applied to the overall course grade, considering the overall performance of the class.

Presentation Schedule

- Aug 25: Introduction, Course Structure
- Sept 1: Holiday
- Sept 8: Instructor Presentation and Feedback
- Sept 15: Imam, Gitter
- Sept 22: Chen, Tsai
- Sept 29: Zahra, LaDuke
- Oct 6: Campbell, Felt
- Oct 13: Holiday
- Oct 20: Kim, Hoxha
- Oct 27: Morshed, Rondon
- Nov 3: Hong, Martino
- Nov 10: Leung, Wang
- Nov 17: Heymach, Lok
- Nov 24: Fu, Hills
- Dec 1: Shi, He
- Dec 8: Reserved for make-up.

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Professions, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty

please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.