

DeAnza College  
Physical Science, Mathematics & Engineering Division  
Spring Quarter 2015

Astronomy 04: "The Solar System"

Class Times                    Section 4 Call No. 00193 1:30-3:45 p.m. Tue & Thu  
Location:                    Tue in the Fujitsu Planetarium / Thu in Forum 1

Instructor:                   Paul J. Olejniczak (Oles)  
Office:                        S48A  
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Office Hours:                10:30-11:15 a.m. MTWThF

Textbook:                    "The Solar System" by Michael A. Seeds, Latest Edition

Web Page:                    olespaul.com

Description:

Astronomy 4 is an introductory-level course, which concentrates on the Sun and the family of objects that orbit it including the planets, their satellites, asteroids, comets, meteoroids and Kuiper Belt Objects.. The course will focus on what we have learned about them in the past five decades since the advent of humanity's ability to explore space. The course has no astronomy, physics or math prerequisites and is taught in a "non-mathematical" manner.

Objectives:

- To provide the student with as comprehensive an account of the modern field of planetary astronomy as possible.
- To create an increased sense of place and scale in the universe and a sense of how our species reached its current understanding of our world's place in the larger scheme of things.
- To acquaint the student with the appearances and other physical characteristics of the major planets, especially as they have been revealed by space probes over the last generation.
- To generate a familiarity with the various modes of research, which astronomers use to investigate other planets, including (but not limited to) various types of automated spacecraft.

Evaluation:

A student's final grade will be based upon four (4), fifty (50) questions each, objective-type exams including a comprehensive final examination. The lowest of the first three test scores will be dropped and the final grade will be a simple average of the remaining two (2) exams and the final exam. Sample exams from previous quarters are posted online.

Make-up examinations will not be administered.

- A missed test – for any reason - will be counted as the student's one allowed dropped test. There will be no exceptions.

- Students missing two tests must withdraw before the final withdrawal date or receive an “F” grade for the class.
  - Last day to drop a class with no record of grade is Sun, Apr 19
  - Last day to drop with a "W" is Fri May 29

Notes regarding examinations:

- Scantron test forms (brown or green) and #2 pencils are required for all examinations. It is the responsibility of the student to mark answers clearly and to fully erase mismarked answers. Scantron forms will not be rescored.
- Graded Scantron forms should be retained by students until their grades are formally posted by the College.

<u>Letter Grades:</u>	A	= 89% +
	B	= 79-88%
	C	= 69-78%%
	D	= 59-68%
	F	= 0-58%

Extra Credit:

- Extra credit questions will be provided on each examination and will be drawn from material in instructional videos presented during class.
- Optional extra credit assignments and projects will be also be offered during the quarter.

Important

<u>Dates:</u>	Apr 07	Tue	Class begins
	May 05	Tue	Test 1 On Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.1
	May 19	Tue	Test 2 on Chapters 6, 8, 19 & 20
	Jun 09	Tue	Test 3 on Chapters 21, 22, 23 & 24
	Jun 24	Wed	Final Exam from 1:45-3:45 p.m.

Class and Lecture Schedule (date indicates “The Week of Tuesday.....”)

Apr 07/09	Tue/Thu	Orientation & Review of Class Roster <u>Chapters 1: “The Scale of the Cosmos”</u> Digital System : “Passport to the Universe”
Apr 14/16	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 2: “The Sky”</u> Coast Tele-course Video: “The Sky”
Apr 21/23	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 3: “Cycles of the Moon”</u> Coast Tele-course Video: “Cycles of the Sky” <u>Chapter 4.1: “The Roots of Astronomy”</u> Coast Tele-course Video: “The Origin of Astronomy”
Apr 28/30	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 4.2 – 5.1: “History of Astronomy”</u> Cosmos Video: “Harmony of the Worlds” Review for Test 1 (Chapters 1 through 5.1

May 05/07	Tue/Thu	Test 1 on Chapters 1,2,3,4 & 5.1 Return and Review Test 1 <u>Chapter 6: "Light &amp; Telescopes"</u> Coast Tele-course Video: "The Tools of Astronomy"
May 12/14	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 8: "The Sun"</u> PBS Video "Solar Blast" <u>Chapter 19: "The Origin of the Solar System"</u> Coast Tele-course Video: "The Origin of the Solar System"
May 19/21	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 20: "Planet Earth"</u> Review for Test 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 19 & 20) Test 2 on Chapters 6, 8, 19 & 20 Return and Review Test 2 <u>Chapter 21.1: "The Moon"</u> BBC Video "The Moon"
May 26/28	Tue/Thu	Chapter 21.1: "The Moon Part 2" Chapter 21.2 & 22.1: "Mercury & Venus" Chapter 22.2 & 22.3 "Mars and its Moons"
Jun 02/04	Tue/Thu	Mars Part II: "The Exploration of Mars" The Martian Rovers: Spirit & Opportunity <u>Chapter 23: "Jupiter &amp; Saturn"</u> BBC Video Volume #2: "Giants"
Jun 09/11	Tue/Thu	Chapter 24: "Uranus, Neptune & Pluto" Review for Test 3 Test 3 on Chapters 21-24 Return and Review Test 3
Jun 16/18	Tue/Thu	<u>Chapter 25: "Meteorites, Asteroids and Comets"</u> Coast Tele-course Video: #25 "Meteorites, Comets and Asteroids" National Geographic Video: "Asteroids: Deadly Impact"
Jun 24	Wed	Final Exam from 1:45-3:45 p.m.

**Rules & Regulations:**

Regular class attendance is required. Class attendance will be recorded each class period. Students missing three (3) consecutive classes will be dropped from the class.

The use of cell phones or pagers is strictly forbidden during class unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

No food or drinks of any kind are permitted in Planetarium.

