

ASTRONOMY 4

Solar System Astronomy

De Anza College

Summer 2025

Instructor: Dr. Eric Peterson

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Textbook: <https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy>
(Select your preferred option under the header: Get This Book.)

Introduction to Astronomy 4

Astronomy 4 is an introductory-level course which concentrates on the planets of our solar system and what we have learned about them in the past 60 years of space exploration.

The course has no prerequisites. However De Anza College does advise the following: English as a Second Language 5. The class is taught with the non-science major in mind.

Class Format

This is an asynchronous online class taught through Canvas. Each week I would like you to do the following:

1. Read the assigned reading for that week
2. Watch assigned powerpoint lecture(s)
3. Watch assigned video(s)
4. Take a weekly quiz

The reading assignments are on the next page of the syllabus.

Exams and Grades

Your class grade will be based on six weekly quizzes and a comprehensive final exam. All will be online through Canvas. The quizzes will constitute 50% of your grade; the last quiz will be an extra credit quiz. The final exam will be the remaining 50%. All of the tests will consist of a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions.

Please note: The Final Exam must be passed in order to pass the class.

Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1. June 30	1, 2, 3, 4.1-4.2 and 4.5-4.7
2. July 7	5, 6, 15, 16
3. July 14	7, 14.3-14.5, 21.3-21.6, 8
4. July 21	9, 10
5. July 28	11, 12
6. August 4	13, 14.1-14.2

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Appraise the benefits to society of planetary research and exploration.
- Compare and contrast the development of planetary systems and of the major planet types, including those factors that have led to Earth's unique characteristics.
- Evaluate astronomical news items or theories concerning solar system astronomy based upon the scientific method.

Office Hours: