

**Astronomy 001**  
**General Astronomy Course Syllabus**  
**West Los Angeles College**

**Summer 2017**

Instructor: Ms. Corinna Jobe  
Email: [prof.jobec@gmail.com](mailto:prof.jobec@gmail.com), or [Jobecc@wlaac.edu](mailto:Jobecc@wlaac.edu)  
Office Hrs: Fridays 9 - 10am online via the "Conferences" link (and by appointment)

**Description:**

Welcome to Astronomy 001 - 3.0 unit CSU, UC transferable course! This is a one-semester online course that surveys content and dynamics of the solar system; the earth and its motions; time and the calendar; moon, eclipses, and tides; physics of the sun, planets, comets and meteorites, including their dynamical aspects and motions. Principles, logic, and development of stellar astronomy, as well as physics of the stars, stellar type populations, stellar evolution; stellar organizations, galaxies, and cosmology are also included.

**At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding that astronomy is based upon observations of the sky and how those observations explain some basic phenomena of nature.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of gravity and light in the structure of and our understanding of the universe.

**Required Materials:**

- Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3rd Ed., by Prather, Slater, Adams & Brissenden
- Note-taking materials such as a computer, lined notebook paper or spiral-bound notebook, pencils or pens
- Regular access to a computer with internet access
- One astronomy text from the list of recommended books below

**The required materials must be obtained before the end of the first week of class.**

**Recommended Texts:** *(please choose only one)*

- OpenStax: Astronomy, by Fraknoi, Morrison & Wolff (this is a FREE online text) <https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy>
- Understanding Our Universe, 1st or 2nd Ed., by Palen, Kay, Smith & Blumenthal
- Astronomy: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe, 7th Ed., by Chaisson & McMillan
- Horizons: Exploring the Universe, 12th Ed., by Seeds & Backman
- Foundations of Astronomy, 11th Ed., by Seeds & Backman
- There are many other suitable astronomy texts out there. Please email me if you'd like my approval for a text not listed above. Include the title, author, and edition.

**General Schedule:**

Each week you are expected to do the following:

- Watch video lectures to learn the week's material
- Complete homework and activities that reinforce your learning of that material
- Post to discussion boards about those activities to further discuss the material
- Complete quizzes and/or an exam to demonstrate your knowledge of the material.

## **Canvas:**

Our course is a fully online course. This means that everything (all handouts, homeworks, lectures, activities, quizzes, exams, projects, and this syllabus) will be available only through the Canvas course site. If you have not used Canvas before, just go to the website listed below and click on User Login. Your Username is your 9 digit WLAC student ID number, and your password is 8888 + month + day you were born (Example: If you were born on July 4th your password would be: 88880704) For security, change your password once you log in.

**Be sure you can access the site, as you will need to access Canvas almost daily to complete the course. Please develop a back-up plan that you can use should your Internet access or computer go down.** You are not required to own your own computer to take this class, but you must somehow have access to a computer and the Internet. There are a number of computer labs located on the WLAC campus in addition to those at your local public libraries that can provide access to the Internet. Please note that technical difficulties will not be allowed as excuses for late work.

Once you have logged in to Canvas, check that your correct email address is in your Canvas profile so that you can receive all class announcements. It is your responsibility to check that email address often for announcements!

<https://ilearn.laccd.edu>

## **Attendance & Class Participation:**

In a traditional face-to-face class, all students are expected to attend class regularly. This is also true of online classes! You **MUST** log in to the course regularly-- at least every other day to be sure you don't miss announcements, assignments, or quizzes. Any student who has not logged in, for any reason whatsoever, for 2 or more consecutive weeks may be dropped. If you choose to stop participating in the course, it is your responsibility to drop the course.

**Do not expect to pass the class without regularly logging in and participating!**

## **Quizzes:**

Homework will be assigned each week via Canvas. These assignments will not be collected, **HOWEVER**, ten questions based on these homeworks will be selected for one or two weekly quizzes to be done on Canvas. Since you will be quizzed on these homework assignments, it obviously is in your best interest to do the homework to ensure good quiz grades even though the homework itself is not collected. To aid in your understanding, you can discuss the homework on the Discussion Boards prior to the quiz.

For the quizzes, any written quiz answers need to be written in your own words and as detailed and specific as possible for full credit. Further, any written answers should be in complete sentences.

**Quizzes will be timed and must be completed in one sitting, but you will have two tries for each quiz.** Your highest score will be the one recorded. Additionally, the lowest overall quiz score will be dropped. The full week's worth of quizzes will be available on Canvas beginning early Sunday and are due by 11:59pm the following Sunday night.

## **Activities & Discussion Boards:**

Activities will be assigned each week via Canvas. These will not be collected, **HOWEVER**, you are required to submit at least one original post and one reply on each activity's discussion board. These required posts may be a question for clarification, an answer to a fellow student, or just some more relevant information you found. You are encouraged to discuss answers! However, **do NOT simply post your answers!** Your posts can include answers as part of a discussion of the material but cannot simply be a listing (complete or partial) of your answers.

Posts will be graded and need to be at least 50 words in each entry for full credit. The lowest two activity scores will be dropped. Each week's posts will be due on Canvas by 11:59pm Sunday night.

### **Exams:**

There will be three midterm exams for the class. These exams will be a mix of multiple choice, matching and essay questions. Exams will be cumulative, covering all the material on any prior exams as well as any new material covered. The exams will be timed, so although you can look up answers, you will most likely not have enough time to look up more than two or three questions. Just as with a traditional class, **you will have only one chance to complete the exam and must complete it in one sitting.** If you miss a midterm exam, then your grade on the final will be used for the missed test. **No make-up exams will be given for any reason. Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse.** Exams will be available on Canvas beginning at noon Friday and must be completed by 11:59pm Sunday night.

### **Final:**

There will be a final exam for the class during our final class week. Like the previous exams, the final will be a mix of multiple choice, matching, and essay questions. The final will also be cumulative, covering all class material. Again, the final exam will be timed, so although you can look up answers, you will most likely not have enough time to look up more than two or three items. The final exam will be available on Canvas beginning at noon Thursday July 20th and must be completed by **11:59pm Sunday July 23rd.** No late exams are possible or allowed.

### **Office Hours:**

Office hours will be conducted online via online chat and by appointment. Feel free to contact me via email as well.

### **General Expectations:**

Please recognize that first and foremost, this is YOUR education. You've paid for it; you're spending your time on it. You wouldn't go to a movie, pay for it, and then just leave for no good reason. You'd also expect to get something of value in return for your money. You should have the same expectation of your education. This means:

- Read the relevant material in your textbook each week. This way you'll be prepared to better understand the lectures, activities, and homeworks.
- Study! For every college unit of an online class, you can expect to spend 3 hours working at home each week. So for our 3-unit class, you can expect to spend at least 9 hours each week. This includes homework assignments, projects, and reading.
- Be active in your thinking. Don't just sit and read. Think about what is being said, done or discussed at the time. Keep your mind active by writing notes about what you are reading. These notes will be a valuable asset for you to study for quizzes and exams.
- Ask questions! Ask for clarification or explanations if you don't understand. Chances are that if you don't get it, someone else in class doesn't either. There are no stupid questions, so please post your questions!
- Proofread your posts BEFORE you submit them, and please follow proper **Netiquette**. (More information can be found at: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>). We want to develop an online course environment that supports all students, so please **maintain a kind and helpful tone at all times.**
- Turn off the TV, silence your cell phone, and minimize distractions while you work online on the class. Out of respect to yourself, your time, and your education, set up a time and space to devote just to our class.
- Do not copy! Plagiarism is certainly not permitted in this or any other course. **Those caught cheating and/or plagiarizing will receive an immediate zero for the assignment or exam.** You may work together on assignments, but all work you turn in is expected to be your own original work. **No points will be given for work copied from another student, the**

Internet, the textbook, or any other source. If any students submit similar work, all parties involved will receive a zero for their assignment. (Please check the WLAC Statement on Academic Integrity for further clarification.) Make your work your own; be original.

- Ask for help. If you are having difficulty with the class material, please let me know. I am here to help you!
- If you are having **technical difficulties**, let me know, but please check in with the college's tech department for assistance. I may be able to help with minor tech issues, but most Canvas related tech issues can best be resolved by contacting WLAC Tech Support online at <http://www.wlac.edu/online/helpdesk.asp>, by phone at (310) 287-4305, or on-campus in the Distance Education office in HLRC 4A and in the computer lab near the Reference Desk in the Library. The DE Office is open Monday – Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Also, the 24/7 Canvas helpline is 1-844-303-5590.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Disabled Students Programs & Services office. If you are a DSPS student, you may qualify for additional time taking your quizzes and exams. Please share with me the accommodations letter so I can help you accordingly.

### **Grading:**

A final letter grade will be assigned based off the following scales:

<b>A: 90-100%</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>B: 80-89%</b>	Quizzes	20%
<b>C: 70-79%</b>	Exams	30%
<b>D: 60-69%</b>	Final	30%
<b>F: 0-59%</b>	Activities DB Posts	20%
	<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Astronomy 001 Summer 2017 Class Schedule:

Note: Schedule is subject to change and is provided as an approximate guide for the course.

Week	Quiz or Exam	Activities*	Topics
1	Quiz 1 (due 6/18)	Position LT - pg 1-2 DBs due 6/18	Overview, Sky Motions
	Quiz 2 (due 6/18)	Seasons LT - pg 93-98 The Cause of Moon Phases LT - pg 81-83 DBs due 6/18	Seasons, Lunar Cycle, Eclipses
2	Quiz 3, Exam 1 (due 6/25)	Kepler's Second Law LT - pg 21-24 DBs due 6/25	History, Orbits, Gravity, Tides
	Quiz 4 (due 6/25)	Electromagnetic Spectrum of Light LT - pg 47-49 Telescopes and Earth's Atmosphere LT - pg 51-53 DBs due 6/25	Light, Telescopes
3	Quiz 5 (due 7/2)	Temperature and Formation of Our Solar System LT - pg 111-112 DBs due 7/2	Solar System Formation, Terrestrial Planets
	Quiz 6, Exam 2 (due 7/2)	Planet Comparison WS Pluto WS DBs due 7/2	Jovian Planets, Dwarf Planets, Solar System Debris
4	Quiz 7 (due 7/9)	Blackbody Radiation LT - pg 59-62 Types of Spectra LT - pg 63-64 DBs due 7/9	Atoms & Light
	Quiz 8 (due 7/9)	Sun Size LT - pg 113-115 Sun Layers & Word Puzzle WS DBs due 7/9	The Sun
5	Quiz 9 (due 7/16)	Star Formation and Lifetimes LT - pg 119-120 Luminosity, Temperature, and Size LT - pg 55-58 DBs due 7/16	Stars, Star Formation
	Quiz 10, Exam 3 (due 7/16)	Stellar Evolution LT - pg 133-134 H-R Diagram LT - pg 117-118 DBs due 7/16	Star Evolution & Death
6	Quiz 11 (due 7/23)	Milky Way Scales LT - pg 135-137 Galaxy Classification LT - pg 139-142 DBs due 7/23	Milky Way Galaxy, Galaxies
	Quiz 12, Final Exam (due 7/23)	Expansion of the Universe LT - pg 161-162 The Big Bang LT - pg 165-168 DBs due 7/23	Cosmology

\*LTs are Lecture-Tutorial activities and WSs are worksheets. The LTs are from the Lecture-Tutorial book, and WSs will be available as pdf files for download from Canvas during the week indicated. It is your responsibility to complete all listed activities, and you may print them out if desired. Pdf files can be best viewed through Adobe Reader (see the link in the Course Information section of our course site for more information.)