

ASTR 1010: Solar System Astronomy

Instructor Information

Instructor name:

Office location:

Office phone:

Office hours:

Email address:

I. Course Description

An introductory course in astronomy that focuses in the study of our solar system. Topics include: the history of astronomy, astronomical coordinates, Newton's laws, gravitation, properties of light, radiation, spectroscopy, types of telescopes and their uses, the moon, eclipses, the sun, planets, and dwarf planets in our solar system, exoplanets, asteroids, comets, and other interplanetary objects.

Credit Hours: 4 Credits (3 Class Hours, 3 Lab Hours)

Prerequisite(s): Level 2 Placement in Math and Reading.

II. Required Materials

Textbook: Choose from one of the following textbooks:

- Astronomy Today, Vol 1: The Solar System, 8th Edition by Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan. Addison Wesley, ISBN:978-0321909718. This is an abbreviated version containing only the chapters covered in ASTR-1010,
or
- Astronomy Today, 8th Edition by Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan. Addison Wesley, ISBN: 978-0321901675. This textbook contains the material covered in ASTR-1010 and ASTR-1020. *This version is recommended if student plans to take both courses.*

Free software: Stellarium (www.stellarium.org). This free, open source planetarium is installed on the computers in the library, but it is highly recommended that you install it on your personal computer.

Calculator: A basic scientific calculator is required for this course.

Once enrolled, all students should verify that they have the correct textbook and materials information by consulting the D2L/NS Online shell for the course. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or accesscenter@nsc.edu.

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III. Course Outcomes and Topics

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Discuss the history of astronomy and its relationship to modern science.
- Explain how electromagnetic radiation and stellar spectra carry information from the stars.
- Illustrate how the tools of astronomy, including telescopes, photometers, and spectrographs, are used.
- Compare and contrast the properties of the major planets, both terrestrial and Jovian.
- Explain the properties of the terrestrial and Jovian planets of our solar system, and their natural satellites.
- Distinguish the properties of solar system debris, including asteroids, dwarf planets, and comets.
- Examine the formation of our Solar System and compare it to other planetary systems.
- Discuss the properties of our star, the Sun.

Topics

- Foundations of Astronomy
- The birth of modern science
- Radiation
- Spectroscopy
- Telescopes
- Overview of the solar system
- The Moon
- The Sun
- Terrestrial Planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
- Jovian Planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
- Dwarf planets
- Solar system debris
- The formation of planetary systems

IV. Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Absences in a course may affect a student's final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student's final grade.

In online courses, attendance is signaled by logging on to the D2L/NS Online shell, participating as prompted (e.g., responding to an instructor's email, posting to a discussion board) and/or completing and submitting assignments. Campus closures do not affect attendance and assignment completion in online courses.

Each instructor will provide further information regarding his/her attendance policy. Failure to attend class could result in a final course grade of "FA" or "FN" (see explanation below), depending on the individual instructor's course policy.

- FA= Failure, attendance related (unofficial withdrawal). Last recorded date of

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attendance required. According to NSCC policy, if a student fails a course, but has not officially withdrawn from the course, and her/his last date of attendance is before the last date to withdraw, the student will receive a grade of FA (i.e., "Failure for Attendance Reasons").

- FN= An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

Please be advised that instructors may have a more specific class policy.

Method of Assessment/Evaluation- The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students' understanding, knowledge, and skills: (*Subject to change at instructor's discretion*)

Course average

Average of tests and final examination	= 40% - 75%
Average of lab reports	= 25%
Other (Quizzes, homework, etc.)	= 0 - 35%

The course letter grade is determined according to the following point ranges:
0-59 = F, 60-69 = D, 70-79 = C, 80-89 = B, and 90-100 = A.

Please consult your instructor for specific information regarding method of assessment.

Safety:

The instructor will review the regulations regarding safety in lab classes. You must turn in a signed copy of the regulations, and you should keep a copy for your records.

V. D2L/NS Online and myNSCC

It is students' responsibility to check D2L/NS Online course shells for all enrolled courses and myNSCC, including student email, on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students, who are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L/NS Online contains specific course information and myNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

VI. Technology Statement

Nashville State's classes are considered to be web-enhanced. Faculty have an expectation that students will use a computer and the Internet to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells. Computers are available for student use at each campus during campus open hours.

VII. ADA Compliance Statement

Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721, or e-mail accesscenter@nsc.edu. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center.

VIII. Classroom Misconduct

Nashville State Community College has a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to

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disciplinary measures. Please review the [Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy](#). Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

IX. Academic Misconduct

Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. Students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) in the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct. In addition to other possible disciplinary measures that may be applied through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

X. Academic Early Alert System

Nashville State Community College uses an Early Alert System to let students know of a faculty member’s concern in one or more of these academic areas: lack of attendance, lack of classroom participation, late or missing assignments, and/or poor performance on assignments/tests. *Please note that Early Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing. If you receive an Early Alert email, please see your instructor and your academic advisor as soon as possible.

XI. RAVE Emergency Alert System

Emergency events can happen at any time and Nashville State Community College wants to be able to notify students if and when they occur. For this reason, all students have been enrolled in the free RAVE alert system. If you have not already done so, please log in at <https://www.getrave.com/login/nsc> to confirm and update your contact information and notification preferences. It is critical that your information be correct so that you will receive any emergency notifications. Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address. If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you. Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

XII. Inclement Weather & Campus Closings

Nashville State will use the RAVE alert system to send a text message to students, staff, and faculty about adjusted hours of operation and/or closings at individual campuses. All students should check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nsc.edu for announcements on campus closures, which may vary from campus to campus. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

Even when campuses are closed, students are still responsible for completing all assigned work. When classes are cancelled, faculty will post online assignments and any additional instructions in the D2L/NS Online course shell. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Faculty have discretion over adjusting deadlines or due date for assignments, but students are responsible for completing all assigned work by the due date established by the instructor.

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XIII. Class Cancellation Policy

If the class is cancelled, the instructor will notify all students by posting in the D2L/NS Online course, e-mailing through D2L/NS Online, and/or by posting a sign on the classroom door. In the event of class cancellation, students must access D2L/NS Online to complete classwork and the assignment that will be posted in the course D2L site.

NOTE: This syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course outcomes, topics, classroom policies, and standard college policies. Some items are subject to change or revision at the instructor's discretion. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc.