



Astronomy & Astrophysics
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Course Syllabus for
AST101 - Summer 2019¹ *The Sun & Its Neighbours*

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to this Introductory course to Astronomy! What a great way to start the summer !

There are two general-interest introductory level courses in Astronomy offered at the University of Toronto. AST101 is the first of those two, it allows us to explore our nearest stellar backyard i.e. our Solar System (the Sun, the planets, and other smaller objects ...) for a start, understand some concepts such as energy, forces, gravitation and realise these are "universal", and finally once knowing and understanding our Solar System we will be able to explore other planetary systems (planets around other stars, also know as exoplanets).

This part of the course is heavily pictorial and often uses the latest results from spacecraft currently exploring the planets.

Who Can Take This Course

This course is intended for students with no science or engineering background.

IMPORTANT : AST 101 cannot be taken for credit by those who are taking or have previously taken AST 121H, AST 221H, Civil 101H, or any 100-level or higher-series Chemistry or Physics courses (with the exception of PHY 100H , PHY 101H, PHY 201H, PHY 205H and CHM 101H). If you are unsure whether you can take AST 101 for credit, consult Andrew Apong (admin@astro.utoronto.ca) in the main astronomy office (AB101).

Course Web Site

Lecture slides will be posted onto the course website <https://q.utoronto.ca> after each lecture.
Grades will be updated on a weekly basis.

1. Version of May 4th, 2019

REQUIRED MATERIAL

- **Required Text** : The course textbook : The Cosmic Perspective, 8th ed., by Bennett et al. (Pearson 2017). It can be obtained through the university bookstore. MasteringAstronomy will be used for weekly marked assignments.

- **iClicker** : You will need to purchase an iClicker. available from the campus bookstore. When you register your iClicker, be sure to use your UTORid not your student number. The website will ask you for your student number, ignore that and use your UTORid. There is a version which works on smart phones, you can get that if you prefer.

LECTURES

Please respect others, including the professor, in the classroom. Turn your cell phones to silent mode. Do not play 'Angry Birds' or watch TV shows.

Lectures will be structured assuming that you have read the textbook before coming to lecture (please refer to the lectures calendar).

MEETING TIMES

- Office Hours :

Tuesday and Thursday 16 :00 - 17 :00, in AB 110; starting on May 9th. In case of any cancellation or change in office hours, an announcement will be posted and course calendar on portal will be updated.

If you cannot make the office hours please e-mail me and we will try to arrange an alternate time.

In addition to this TA office hours will be announced on the course calendar on the portal.

- Lectures :

Lectures are on TR - Tuesdays and Thursdays in room **MP 203** (in the McLennan Physical Laboratories - 60 St George St. - from 18 :10 to 20 :00.

The first lecture being on Tuesday, May 7th.

- Tutorials :

The summer version of this course has optional tutorials. An initial schedule of dates, times and topics will be announced later in the first week of the course, with updates posted on the course website.

CONTACT US FOR HELP

- Four TAs are assigned to the course, you will meet them during the tutorial and the observation project. You can contact them

ast101sum@astro.utoronto.ca

- For a matter that specifically requires the Professor, please email-me directly. I try to answer e-mails within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays). If I do not, please send a follow up e-mail.

souami@astro.utoronto.ca

EVALUATION

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS	(on Mastering Astronomy) 4% in total (the lowest one is dropped)
BI-WEEKLY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS	5% in total
- OBSERVING PROJECT	6% in total (2% for the observing plan, 4% for the final work)
- LECTURE PARTICIPATION	(Clicker use) 5% in total
2 TERM TESTS	(2 × 20%) (or 2 × 25% if the average is higher than the exam)
-FINAL EXAM	40% or 30%
TOTAL	100%

Remark : For the lecture participation, you have the option to reweigh these 5% to the final exam, if email confirmation received by your Professor by May 15th.

- The Tests : There will be two term-tests in this course
 - May 21st, 2019. Time : 19:30 - 20:30. Location TBD.
 - June 4th, 2019. Time : 19:30 - 20:30. Location TBD.
- The Final Exam will be three hours long, it can be any day between June 19th and June 26th (according to the university calendar <https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/sessional-dates>). The exact date, time and place will be announced.

Do not purchase an airplane or train ticket before the date is announced, as there will be no possible accommodation.

The midterm and the final exam will draw from the lectures, tutorials, assignments, and the textbook. This could include material presented in the lectures or tutorial material that is not covered in the textbook. It could also include assigned reading material that was covered in the textbook but not explicitly discussed in lectures or even during the tutorial or the observing project.

The exam will cover all the material, including material that was on the term test. You will be permitted to bring a hard-copy translation dictionary to the test and exam.

- Lecture Participation : During lectures, Clicker questions will be asked. These are multiple choice questions. You get marks for participating ; you do not need to get these correct.

You may not use someone else's Clicker to vote. This is giving them marks which they did not earn, hence is academic fraud ! Appropriate use of the Clickers will be checked during randomly chosen lectures. If you are caught with another student's Clicker, or if you are caught getting credit without being in the lecture, all students involved risk severe academic sanctions.

Illnesses, Absences, and Medical Notes

As described under the Evaluation section, we allow you to miss some coursework without having it affect your final grade. If you miss classes or assignments which can be covered by the automatically dropped lowest marks, you do not have to submit documentation. However, if you must miss more than the allowed number of classes or assignments, or if you will miss a midterm, you must submit appropriate documentation to your college registrar. If your college registrar permits you more absences than are allowed by the grading policy, you will still be considered to be using up your default number of dropped marks. For example, if you miss two weeks of classes due to illness and your absence is approved by your college registrar, you will be allowed to drop the default plus one additional assignment, for a total of two, and the weight of the midterms and final exam will be increased accordingly.

If you are absent from a test-term, you **MUST** notify your professor as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail on the day of your absence; and you **MUST** provide a **U of T Verification of Student Illness and Injury Form** (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>) . If you do so promptly, you may be allowed to have the weight of your missed midterm transferred to the other midterm and the final exam. If you feel ill prior to a test and you think your illness will impair your test performance, **DO NOT WRITE THE TEST**. Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will students be allowed to re-write tests. Absences for religious observances are permitted, but three weeks advance notification is usually required.

CONCERNS

If you have any concerns about the course and your ability to do well, please come see me and we can discuss your situation. I am happy to make reasonable accommodations to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to do well in this course. The university has many resources to provide us the best chance to help you succeed.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM

Please Read the Code of Student Conduct at : <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>, as well as the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters at : <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

ps : extra-attention will be given to the definition of plagiarism during the first lecture.