

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This course is taught by a team of more than 30 people. That means there are lots of people you can turn to for help. To help us help you, please direct your questions as follows:

1. Please direct all non-private inquiries to the discussion boards on Quercus.
2. Private questions must be sent to ast101@astro.utoronto.ca. Inquiries sent to other addresses, including the individual addresses of instructors and TAs, **will not receive replies.**
3. Detailed questions requiring a lot of discussion are best dealt with during office hours.

Example public questions: Post on the discussion boards

I need a little more explanation about topic X. Can you help?

Where do I write the midterm?

Will topic X be on the exam? Can you explain topic X?

What was covered during the class I missed?

Example private questions: E-mail to ast101@astro.utoronto.ca

My posted midterm grade is wrong--can you fix it?

I am registered with Accessibility Services and wanted to notify you of the accommodations I require...

Example questions for office hours:

Can you help me understand why I did poorly on the midterm?

How should I study for the final exam?

I'm confused about the following list of topics: _____

Astronomy 101--The Sun and Its Neighbours Fall 2019

Dr. Renée Hložek & Dr. Jeremy Webb

Classes: Tu. & Th., 2-3 pm, Con. Hall

Table of Contents

Course Description and Prerequisites	3
Course Learning Goals	3
E-mail	3
Office Hours	4
Course Materials	4
Tutorials and Planetarium Shows	4
Grading Scheme	4
Quercus/Canvas	5
Clicker Quizzes	5
Illnesses, Absences, and Missed Work	6
Assignments	7
Examinable Material	7
Grade Checks and Disputes	8
Observing Nights	8
Academic Integrity	8
Con Hall Quiet Areas	9
Accessibility	10

Course Description and Prerequisites

AST 101 is one of two general-interest courses in astronomy taught at the University of Toronto. This course deals with the nearby universe, starting with the Sun and planets of our own solar system and working outward to other solar systems. A recurring theme throughout the course is the search for life elsewhere in the cosmos. The complementary course, AST 201, deals with the more distant universe, including stars other than the Sun, galaxies, and the origin and fate of the universe as a whole.

The course is largely non-mathematical and is designed for students with no science or engineering background, but if you're uncomfortable with any of the course material, you should read the Study Guide (posted on Quercus) to get a clear idea of what will be expected of you.

Please make sure that you are eligible to take this course for credit. Check the most current list of exclusions in the course calendar. If you are unsure whether you can take this course for credit, please consult the undergraduate administrator (admin@astro.utoronto.ca) in the main astronomy office.

Course Learning Goals

Our hope is that you will see AST 101 as an opportunity to indulge your curiosity about the universe you live in. You should **enjoy** taking this course. We will cover some essential topics, but we will make every effort to leave time for questions, which are strongly encouraged! Our overall goals in this course are:

- to discover our place in the universe
- discover what the universe is like and why it is like that
- to develop our capacity to ask and answer important questions about science
- to learn how to think critically about concepts in astronomy, physics, and space science

E-mail

Please post all science questions, general inquiries, and any other material for which privacy is not a concern to the discussion boards on Quercus. For efficiency, these types of questions **will not be answered by e-mail**. For matters where privacy is a concern, please e-mail:

ast101@astro.utoronto.ca

Please note that we will only answer emails from official utoronto.ca email addresses. Any emails from gmail, yahoo, hotmail or other non-UofT accounts will be ignored.

Office Hours

Office hours for your instructors will be posted on Quercus in the course calendar. If you need to see one of the instructors in person, but you are not able to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict or reasons related to accessibility, please send us an email to the address above indicating the nature of the conflict, and with a copy of your timetable or other relevant documentation.

Course Materials

All of the following may be obtained through the university Bookstore.

- **Required Text: The Cosmic Perspective**, 9th ed., by Bennett et al. (8th or 7th editions are also acceptable)
 - We **do not** recommend the 6th edition or earlier, nor any of the “Essentials” versions of the textbook. If you choose to use one of these editions, you will have to be careful to make sure you are reading the right material.
- An iClicker+ (see Clicker Quizzes section below for details)
- An access code for Mastering Astronomy. It comes with new copies of the book or, if you bought a used book, you can buy the code separately from cashiers in the UofT Bookstore in Koffler Centre. The code should cost about \$20. If you’re buying a code online and it costs more like \$60, you’re buying the wrong thing.

Tutorials and Planetarium Shows

This course has mandatory weekly tutorials. Consult the “Term Schedule” on Quercus to ensure that you go to the correct room each week. The first two full weeks of class (weeks 2 & 3) will have planetarium shows instead of regular tutorials. Regular tutorials start in the fourth week of classes.

Grading Scheme

Clicker quizzes in classes	8%
Clicker quizzes in tutorials	8%
Mastering Astronomy assignments (approx. 11 of these)	5%
Observing Project Plan	3%
Final Observing Project	9%
Midterm test	22% or 32%
Final exam	45% or 35%

If your midterm grade is higher than your grade on the final exam, your midterm will count for 32% of your final grade and the exam for 35%. Otherwise, the midterm will count for 22% and the final for 45%. We will **automatically** disregard the following:

- Up to **TWO** missed assignment marks
- Up to **TWO** missed tutorial quizzes
- Up to **FOUR** missed class clicker quizzes

Quercus/Canvas

All students are responsible for **daily monitoring** of the course Quercus page at:

q.utoronto.ca

All important announcements will be posted on Quercus. It is your responsibility to check for them. Class notes and grades will also be posted on Quercus. If you can't access the Quercus page for this course, please refer to these troubleshooting instructions:

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-quercus-guide>

Clicker Quizzes

Clicker quizzes will be administered several times each class and tutorial. These are open-book exercises designed to help you test your understanding as you learn and improve your retention. They help keep you engaged in class and help you identify your areas of weakness so that you can focus your studying later. Clicker quizzes are not tests: you are encouraged to discuss each quiz with your classmates and refer to your notes. To make them less intimidating, you can earn two marks per quiz: one for clicking ANY answer and one more if your answer is correct.

To earn marks, you must register your clicker. Click the “i>clicker registration” link in the Clicker Quizzes module on this course’s Quercus page to get started.

Please also note that, you will need to be careful to change your i>clicker frequency code for each class and tutorial. The instructions on how to change the frequency code are printed on the back of your clicker. All of our classes in Con Hall will use frequency code ‘AA’, but the code used in your tutorial will be different. Failure to change your frequency code to the right one will result in the irretrievable loss of all marks for that session. **IF YOU ARE SEEING A RED LIGHT ON YOUR CLICKER WHEN YOU CLICK IN, YOUR MARKS ARE NOT BEING RECORDED.**

Try changing your frequency to the one mentioned by your TA and, if that doesn’t work, bring the problem to the attention of your instructor or TA immediately.

CLICKING IN ON ANY CLICKER BUT YOUR OWN, EVEN ONCE, OR ASKING SOMEONE TO CLICK IN ON YOUR CLICKER, EVEN ONCE, CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS ACADEMIC OFFENCE. THE PENALTY FOR THIS OFFENCE MAY INCLUDE THE LOSS OF ALL CLICKER MARKS IN BOTH CLASS AND TUTORIAL FOR THE ENTIRE TERM.

Please note that the same manufacturer makes an internet-based polling system called REEF, which you **cannot** use for this course.

Illnesses, Absences, and Missed Work

What did you miss?

1. **Some clicker quizzes:** See the grading scheme -- we already automatically disregard four missed classes and two missed tutorials. We will only make further allowances for missed clicker quizzes if you missed more than four lectures or two tutorials of quizzes and you have appropriate documentation. Submit documentation covering your absences from the missed clicker quizzes **include the first 4 lecture quizzes or 2 tutorial quizzes**. If you miss a tutorial or lecture due to illness or other valid reasons, please have documentation regardless of which one it is, and only submit it to us once you've missed more than the allowed amount.
2. **The midterm:** If you're able to write the make-up midterm (the date is in the term schedule), you don't need to let us know. Simply bring a hard copy of your documentation with you to the make-up midterm and submit it to the invigilating TA. 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 a letter from the registrar is required.
3. **The make-up midterm:** If you are unable to write the make-up midterm, you MUST let us know within 48 hours of your return to campus. Submit appropriate documentation covering your absences from BOTH the original and the make-up midterm.
4. **The final exam:** Speak to your college registrar as soon as possible. You DO NOT need to notify us. We can't help with missed final exams.
5. **Up to two assignments:** Do nothing. Two missed assignments will be disregarded automatically at the end of the semester. Please note that if you miss a third assignment you will be required to submit documentation for all three.
6. **Three or more assignments:** Submit documentation covering your absence from all missed assignments **including the first two**. If you miss an assignment due to illness or other valid reasons, please have documentation regardless of which one it is, and only submit it to us once you've missed three or more.

Please note that you if you miss more than the allotted number of clicker quizzes or assignments, you must provide us with documentation for ALL of the missed work. You must prove to us that you have missed additional work besides the allowed two tutorials, four lectures, or two assignments for valid reasons (medical, etc.).

Assignments

In this course, assignments will be completed online using the Mastering Astronomy web site. Full instructions on how to purchase an access code and register for the system can be found on the Quercus site for this course, under the "Mastering Astronomy Assignments" module.

You will need to register for Mastering Astronomy, as it contains a number of useful tutorials and other helpful supplements to the textbook, and we use it for our weekly assignments. You can purchase an access code to Mastering Astronomy it in one of three ways:

1. Purchase the textbook "The Cosmic Perspective, 9th edition" from the University Bookstore. It comes with the required 4 month Mastering Astronomy access.

If, instead you are using a used copy of the textbook (including the 8th or 7th edition) you can instead...

2. Purchase a physical copy of the standalone 4 month Mastering Astronomy access code card from the University Bookstore OR
3. Purchase a Mastering Astronomy Access Code through the University Bookstore website (your course will be added on here by Tues at the latest)

Make sure you are purchasing an access code to Mastering Astronomy, and not something else that looks similar. Do not purchase your Mastering Astronomy Access code through the Pearson site. It will cost you a lot more!

New assignments will be posted Tuesday and will be due the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. **It is your responsibility to monitor the Mastering Astronomy web site and ensure that you complete all of the assignments by their posted due dates. Due dates for all assignments are noted on the Term Schedule.**

Although you are free to discuss the assignments with each other in general terms, any evidence of copying or other forms of academic dishonesty will be treated very seriously. If we find that you have cheated on even one assignment, the penalty might include losing all of the assignment marks for the entire semester.

Examinable Material

The examinable materials for this course will consist of the materials covered in classes and tutorials, assignments, and the assigned readings. Portions of the text not covered in class are not examinable. The final exam will be cumulative, but with more emphasis placed on the second half of the course.

Grade Checks and Disputes

You are encouraged to review your graded materials to ensure that they have been graded accurately and the marks added correctly. After the midterm, we will have a Grade Check Session during which you will have the opportunity to meet with the grading TAs and discuss your marks.

Observing Nights

Over the course of the term, we will hold several optional observing sessions which will afford students the opportunity to view highlights of the night sky through a telescope. These will necessarily be scheduled as the weather permits. Announcements about these sessions will be made in class, on Quercus, and by e-mail. No marks are awarded for participating in these activities—they're just for fun, and to get help with your Observing Projects. You may attend more than one session, space permitting, and may bring one or two friends to each one.

Because these sessions will usually take place after dark on the downtown campus, all students are strongly encouraged to take appropriate safety precautions when traveling to and from the sessions. Dress warmly—it can be cold and windy 15 floors up!

Observing sessions will sometimes be canceled due to inclement weather or cloud cover. If an observing night has to be canceled, a note announcing the cancellation will be posted on Quercus by 3 PM on the day of the observing night.

Academic Integrity

From Appendix D of the **Academic Integrity Handbook**

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>) which all students are expected to read and by which they are expected to abide, it is an offence for students to:

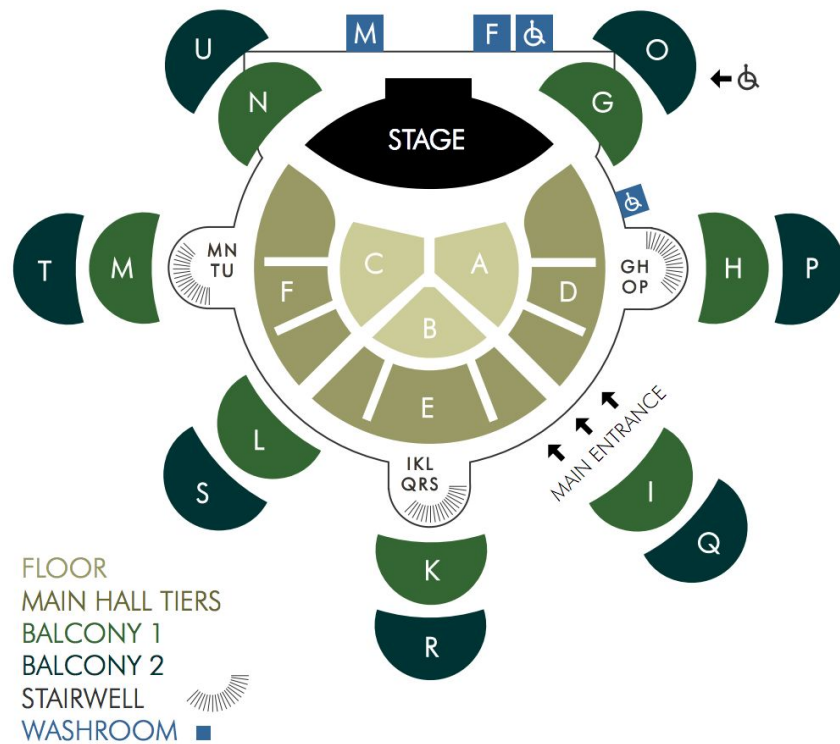
- Use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging **explicitly** with a citation that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism. In particular, to copy answers to short answer assignment problems or the observing project from any website, the textbook, another student, or any other source, even if reworded.
- **Click in on any i>clicker other than their own**
- **Ask another student to click in on an i>clicker other than his or her own**
- Include false, misleading, or concocted citations in their work.
- Obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment
- Provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student your own work or clicking in on their i>clicker.
- Submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most common. You are instructed to respect these rules and the values which they protect.

Con Hall Quiet Areas

Many students suffer from sensory hypersensitivities. For these students, concentrating in a large room like Con Hall is very difficult. Some of them avoid class because of the stress of trying to concentrate amid distractions. To help these and all students achieve their maximum potential, we require all students to respect the following seating rules.

Sections	Rules for these sections
A	Totally distraction-free--no talking, typing, eating, use of electronic devices, chewing gum, or wearing of scents. Strive to be still and calm.
B-F	Silent areas--no talking except during clicker quizzes; respectful use of electronic devices
G-M	Quiet areas--brief, necessary conversations only; respectful use of electronic devices



Accessibility

The University of Toronto offers a wide variety of services to ensure that all students have equal access to education. Most of these services are coordinated through Accessibility Services. See:

<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

If you have (or develop) any kind of physical, mental, or emotional condition that might interfere with your schoolwork, we strongly encourage you to register with Accessibility Services as early as possible. Examples of such conditions include learning disabilities, concussions, chronic health issues, mobility issues, low vision, anxiety, and depression. Accessibility Services will assess your needs and work on your behalf to arrange accommodations with your professors so that you can achieve at your optimum potential.

If you have a mobility issue that prevents you from going up or down stairs, please let us know as early in the semester as possible. The planetarium, the observatory, both professors' offices are all accessible by stairs only. We will happily arrange assistance or alternatives for those who might have difficulty accessing these locations.

VERY IMPORTANT TO-DO ITEMS

1. Bring your i>clicker with you to every class starting in the second class.
2. Log into the course on Quercus. If you can't access the course and you have registered recently, please wait up to 48 hours for your registration to take effect. Your professors cannot speed this process along.
3. Register your i>clicker on this course's Quercus page. Everyone must complete this step, even if you've registered your clicker before.
4. Sign up for a tutorial section on ROSI if you have not already done so.
5. Make sure your e-mail address on ROSI is an @utoronto.ca address or you may miss crucial e-mails.
6. Sign up for Mastering Astronomy following the instructions on the 'Assignment' page of the course Quercus site.
7. Complete the assignments "Introduction to Mastering Astronomy" (not for marks) and "Assignment 1" (for marks) on Mastering Astronomy.
8. Read the university's policies on academic honesty and integrity:
<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>
9. Read the university's Code of Student Conduct:
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>