Course Catalog - Spring 2015

Astronomy

Astronomy
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ASTR 100 Introduction to Astronomy credit: 3 hours.
One term introduction to astronomy. The nature of science; sun, planets, and moons; origin of the solar system; nature and evolution of stars; exploding stars; stellar remnants, including white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes; extrasolar planetary systems; galaxies and quasars; dark matter and dark energy; the Big Bang and the fate of the universe; and life in the universe. Lectures and observation; a field trip to Parkland Staerkel Planetarium may be required, nominal charge. Credit is not given for ASTR 100 if credit in any of ASTR 121, ASTR 122, ASTR 210, or equivalent has been earned. Students with credit in PHYS 212 are encouraged to take ASTR 210.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences

ASTR 113 The Sky credit: 3 hours.
Examines the visual aspects and phenomena of the sky; astronomical lore and history. Prerequisite: ASTR 100, ASTR 121 or ASTR 122, or consent of instructor.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences

ASTR 121 The Solar System credit: 3 hours.
Introductory survey of the solar system; structure and motions of the earth and moon; planetary motions; natures and characteristics of the planets, and small solar system bodies (comets and asteroids); planetary moons and rings; meteors, meteoroids, and meteorites; properties of the Sun; origin and evolution of the solar system; comparison of our solar system to extrasolar planetary systems. Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving and scientific methods. Two lectures and one discussion each week, and observing sessions during the term. Credit is not given for ASTR 121 if credit for any of ASTR 100, ASTR 210, GEOL 116 has been earned. Students with credit in PHYS 212 are encouraged to take ASTR 210.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences
UIUC: Quant Reasoning II

ASTR 122 Stars and Galaxies credit: 3 hours.
Introduction to celestial objects and phenomena beyond the solar system, and the governing basic physical principles; galaxies, quasars, and structure of the universe; dark matter and dark energy; the Big Bang and the fate of the universe; the Milky Way; the interstellar medium and the birth of stars; distances, motions, radiation, structure, evolution, and death of stars, including neutron stars and black holes. Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving and scientific methods. Two lectures and one discussion each week, and observing sessions during the term. Credit is not given for ASTR 122 if credit in either ASTR 100 or ASTR 210 has been earned. Students with credit in PHYS 212 are encouraged to take ASTR 210.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences
UIUC: Quant Reasoning II

ASTR 131 The Solar System Lab credit: 1 hours.
Laboratory studies which complement the lecture course, ASTR 121. Laboratory exercises will include properties of telescopes, observations of the Moon and planets using telescopes at the Campus Observatory, and computer-based activities that illustrate
modern astronomical techniques using digital data. Prerequisite: Credit in ASTR 100 or ASTR 121, or concurrent registration in ASTR 121.

ASTR 132  **Stars and Galaxies Lab**  credit: 1 hours.
Laboratory studies which complement the lecture course, ASTR 122. Laboratory exercises will include properties of telescopes, observations of star clusters, nebulae and galaxies using telescopes at the Campus Observatory, and computer-based activities that illustrate modern astronomical techniques using digital data. Prerequisite: Credit in ASTR 100 or ASTR 122, or concurrent registration in ASTR 122.

ASTR 150  **Killer Skies: Astro-Disasters**  credit: 3 hours.
Exploration of the most dangerous topics in the Universe, such as meteors, supernovae, gamma-ray bursts, magnetars, rogue black holes, colliding galaxies, quasars, and the end of the Universe, to name just a few.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences

ASTR 199  **Undergraduate Open Seminar**  credit: 1 TO 5 hours.
Approved for both letter and S/U grading. May be repeated.

ASTR 210  **Introduction to Astrophysics**  credit: 3 hours.
Survey of modern astronomy for students with background in physics. Topics include: the solar system; nature and evolution of stars; white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes; galaxies, quasars and dark matter; large scale structure of the universe; the Big Bang; and Inflation. Emphasis will be on the physical principles underlying the astronomical phenomena. Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent registration in PHYS 212.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
UIUC: Physical Sciences

ASTR 330  **Extraterrestrial Life**  credit: 3 hours.
Scientific discussion of the search for extraterrestrial life. Topics include: cosmic evolution (protons to heavy elements to molecules); terrestrial evolution (chemical, biological, and cultural); high technology searches for extraterrestrial life in the solar system (Mars, Venus, outer planets); and beyond the solar system (Drake equation and current SETI projects).

ASTR 350  **Introduction to Cosmology**  credit: 3 hours.
Descriptive course on modern cosmological theories. Topics include aspects of special and general relativity; curved spacetime; the Big Bang; inflation; primordial element synthesis; the cosmic microwave background; the formation of galaxies and large scale structure. Credit is not given for ASTR 350 if credit in ASTR 406 has been earned. Prerequisite: ASTR 100, or ASTR 121, or ASTR 122, or ASTR 210, or consent of instructor.

ASTR 390  **Individual Study**  credit: 1 TO 4 hours.
Individual study at an advanced undergraduate level. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 8 hours. Prerequisite: Consent of advisor and of faculty member who supervises the work.

ASTR 401  **Scientific Writing for Astro**  credit: 1 hours.
Development of journal-style writing skills. Papers written in accordance with the Astrophysical Journal Manual of Style on topics approved by the instructor. Emphasis on developing adequate and critical coverage of the topic, brevity compatible with clarity, and effective presentation. Proper referencing, footnotes, and bibliography are covered. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement. Concurrent enrollment in a designated 400-level astronomy course.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
ASTR 404  Stellar Astrophysics  credit: 3 hours.
Introduction to astrophysical problems, with emphasis on underlying physical principles; includes the nature of stars, equations of state, stellar energy generation, stellar structure and evolution, astrophysical neutrinos, binary stars, white dwarfs, neutron stars and pulsars, and novae and supernovae. Prerequisite: PHYS 212; or consent of instructor. Recommended: ASTR 210, PHYS 213, PHYS 214.

ASTR 405  Solar System and IS Medium  credit: 3 hours.
Physical processes in the solar system; dynamics of the solar system; physics of planetary atmospheres; individual planets; comets, asteroids, and other constituents of the solar system; extra-solar planets; formation of the solar system, stars, and planets; components of the interstellar medium; ionization and recombination; heating and cooling processes; comparison of theory with observations; composition and characteristics of interstellar dust; dynamics of the interstellar medium; interactions of stars with the interstellar medium: H II regions, planetary nebulae, and supernova remnants. Prerequisite: PHYS 212; or consent of instructor. Recommended: ASTR 210, PHYS 213, PHYS 214.

ASTR 406  Galaxies and the Universe  credit: 3 hours.
Nature of the Milky Way galaxy: stellar statistics and distributions, stellar populations, spiral structure, the nucleus and halo. Nature of ordinary galaxies; galaxies in our Local Group, structure of voids and superclusters. Nature of peculiar objects: Seyfert galaxies, starburst galaxies, and quasars. Elementary aspects of physical cosmology. Prerequisite: PHYS 212; or consent of instructor. Recommended: ASTR 210, PHYS 213, PHYS 214.

ASTR 414  Astronomical Techniques  credit: 4 hours.
Introduction to techniques used in modern optical and radio astronomy with emphasis on the physical and mathematical understanding of the detection of electromagnetic radiation; includes such topics as fundamental properties of radio and optical telescopes and the detectors that are used with telescopes. Lectures and laboratory. Prerequisite: MATH 241 or equivalent; PHYS 212; or consent of instructor. Recommended: ASTR 210, PHYS 213, PHYS 214.

ASTR 450  Astrochemistry  credit: 4 hours.
Same as CHEM 450. See CHEM 450.

ASTR 451  Astrochemistry Laboratory  credit: 3 OR 4 hours.
Same as CHEM 451. See CHEM 451.

ASTR 496  Seminar in Astronomy  credit: 1 TO 4 hours.
Lectures on topics of current interest in astronomy and astrophysics; for advanced undergraduates and graduates. See Class Schedule for current topics. Approved for both letter and S/U grading. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

ASTR 499  Astronomy Laboratory  credit: 2 hours.
Provides hands-on observational experience: how to use a telescope, how to image sources using a modern CCD camera, how to use a modern CCD spectrometer, and how to apply data analysis to astrophysical problems. Prerequisite: One 400-level astronomy course.

ASTR 501  Radiative Processes  credit: 4 hours.
Fundamentals of radiative processes in astronomy. Topics include radiative transfer, classical theory of radiation fields, relativistic covariance and kinematics, synchrotron emission and absorption, bremsstrahlung, plasma effects, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, and dust. Prerequisite: ASTR 404 or consent of instructor.
ASTR 502  **Astrophysical Dynamics**  credit: 4 hours.
Introduction to stellar dynamics and fluid dynamics. Topics include two body collisions, two body relaxation, potential theory for stellar systems, adiabatic invariance, stellar system models, Jeans equations, and the virial theorem. Also hydrodynamics, magnetohydrodynamics, waves, instabilities, shocks, explosions, density waves, and wind-blown bubbles. Prerequisite: PHYS 436, PHYS 427, and PHYS 486; or consent of instructor.

ASTR 503  **Observational Astronomy**  credit: 4 hours.
Techniques and basic results of observational astronomy; gamma ray, x-ray, ultraviolet, visible, infrared, and radio astronomy; photometry, imaging, spectroscopy, and polarimetry; gravitational waves; cosmic rays; neutrinos; positional astronomy; noise; statistics; data analysis; optics. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

ASTR 504  **Theoretical Stellar Physics**  credit: 4 hours.
Application of physical principles to energy generation and flow in astrophysical environments: equations of state; thermonuclear reactions; radiative transport; convection; stellar spectra; nebular spectra; evolution of both single and binary stars; compact stars; accretion disks; thermal and particle history of the universe. Same as PHYS 542. Prerequisite: PHYS 436, PHYS 427, and PHYS 486; or consent of instructor.

ASTR 505  **Star Formation**  credit: 4 hours.
Survey of the current state of astrophysical research into the topic of star formation. Particular emphasis placed on interpreting observations and how they relate to the theory of star formation. Prerequisite: ASTR 405 or consent of instructor.

ASTR 506  **Galaxies**  credit: 4 hours.
Survey of the different constituents of the Universe, including galaxies, active galaxies, galaxy clusters, and intergalactic gas. Particular emphasis will be placed on observable properties of the Milky Way and other galaxies, as well as relating such observations to the understanding of the dynamics and evolution of galaxies. Prerequisite: ASTR 406 or consent of instructor.

ASTR 507  **Physical Cosmology**  credit: 4 hours.
A survey of the essentials of modern cosmology, providing an overview of the state of the field, of open questions, and of observational and theoretical tools. Topics include: classical cosmology--the Friedmann universe; the early universe--inflation, nucleosynthesis, dark matter; the cosmic microwave background--basic physics, anisotropies, polarization; large scale structure formation--theoretical models and observational tests; dark energy--observational evidence, theoretical ideas. Emphasizes applying physical principles to understand observations, and on using observations to constrain the nature of matter and spacetime on cosmic scales--viewing the universe as a laboratory for fundamental physics. Course work focuses heavily on problem solving. Prerequisite: ASTR 406 or consent of instructor.

ASTR 510  **Computational Astrophysics**  credit: 4 hours.
Prepares students to use numerical simulations to study complex problems in astrophysics and cosmology. Numerical methods and parallel computing will be covered together with the design, validation, and analysis of simulations. Emphasis is placed on solving ordinary and partial differential equations that arise in astrophysical contexts. Students work on assigned numerical problems and perform simulations using existing simulation codes, writing a final paper which presents the results of simulations using one of these codes. There are no formal prerequisites except knowledge of a scientific programming language such as Fortran, C, and C++. Familiarity with Unix/Linux and astronomical analysis tools is useful but not required.

ASTR 515  **General Relativity I**  credit: 4 hours.
Same as PHYS 515. See PHYS 515.

ASTR 516  **General Relativity II**  credit: 4 hours.
Same as PHYS 516. See PHYS 516.

ASTR 540  **Astrophysics**  credit: 4 hours.
Same as PHYS 540. See PHYS 540.

ASTR 541  **Physics of Compact Objects**  credit: 4 hours.
Same as PHYS 541. See PHYS 541.

ASTR 590  **Individual Study**  credit: 2 TO 16 hours.
Individual study or non-thesis research. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Consent of adviser and of faculty member who supervises the work.

ASTR 596  **Seminar in Special Topics**  credit: 0 TO 16 hours.
Approved for both letter and S/U grading. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

ASTR 599  **Thesis Research**  credit: 0 TO 16 hours.
Approved for S/U grading only. May be repeated.