
Astro 100 MW
Daytime Mon & Wed
The Solar System

IUPUI Physics Department

Spring 2022

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Description: An introductory survey of the eight planets, Sun, asteroids, and comets found in our solar system. Plus other interesting information about space.

Learning Objectives: By the final exam, you will have a basic understanding of:

(i) How scientific/astronomical explanations are formulated, tested, and modified or validated: Early theory of solar system formation, the Kelvin-Helmholtz model, and the modern quantum theory of nuclear fusion.

(ii) Differences between scientific and non-scientific evidence and explanations: Early models of the Sun versus the modern theory based on the laws of astrophysics, relativity, and quantum physics.

(iii) Foundational knowledge and astronomical-specific concepts to address issues or solve problems: Theory behind the formation of terrestrial planets compared to how the Jovian planets formed.

(iv) Observational, quantitative, and technological methods to gather data and generate evidence-based conclusions: Geological dating of Mars' and Moon's surfaces and how that evidence yields the age of our solar system, sun, and the development of general stellar evolution theories.

(v) How theories describe, explain, and predict natural phenomena: Big Bang Theory, and the origin of the Hydrogen, Helium, and Lithium in our solar system.

(vi) How to locate sources of astronomical evidence to construct arguments: The detailed orbital motion of Mercury and the search for the explanation beyond Newton's laws of motion.

How Learning Objectives are Assessed: There will be a quiz each week that covers the material lectured during the previous week. There will be two (75-minute long) exams administered during the semester. There will be a comprehensive final exam (2 hours) administered during finals' week.

Text: *THE COSMIC PERSPECTIVE The Solar System* by Bennett, *et al.*, any recent edition, Pearson Publishing. NOTE: This text is quite extensive and in most cases provides too much detail. In the end, you are responsible for knowing and understanding my lectures notes. You should use the text to supplement the lecture notes (*i.e.*, "fill in the details") – the exams and quizzes are based on the lecture notes.

Web: <http://woodahl.physics.iupui.edu/Astro100MW/> Mark this web-site in your browser. At the web site you will find: Syllabus (which you are reading now) in PDF, Master Schedule in PDF, and announcements.

Contact: You should try to use your official "name@iupui.edu" email when contacting me. Others may be rejected by the UITS junk email filters.

Lecture: Meet from Noon - 1:15 on Monday and Wednesday in LE 101. This course is presented in the traditional format consisting of formal lectures in front of students. During the lectures I will cover, in detail the important concepts. The tests and quizzes are based on the lecture material. I urge you to collaborate with a classmate in sharing notes if one of you misses a lecture. **NOTE: Under no circumstances will copies of the lecture notes be provided to students.**

Quizzes: Quizzes given once a week, will be over all material since the previous quiz (or test). The lowest quiz score will be dropped. This allows for one free missed quiz for sickness, dead car battery, work, family matters, etc. There are no makeups on any quizzes **under any circumstances**. Format for the quizzes is generally four multiple choice questions (with four possible answers). Keep your quizzes for exam review.

Exams: There will be two exams of one-hour length and a two-hour final (Exam III) as listed in the schedule. There are no makeups on any exams! Exam study guides will be posted about 1 week in advance. Do not miss an exam – you will receive a zero for that exam (there are no exceptions). Furthermore, no exams will be given early – if you have an outside unmitigated conflict with an exam date/time, drop the course now. Format for the exams is generally seventy (± 10) multiple choice questions (with four possible answers) and 2 partial-credit computational (or short answer) problems. During the exams, it is essential to use a high quality, soft, dark pencil (No. 2 or HB) for the op-scan sheets. **Failure to use a pencil (or HB) during the exams results in a zero.** Exam scores (and quiz scores) will be posted on Canvas approximately one week after each exam.

Withdrawal: If it is necessary for you to drop this course, please do so officially, filling out all the necessary paperwork. Otherwise per University policy you will receive an F on your transcript.

Telescopes: The department has several telescopes for student use which may be borrowed for a few weeks at a time. Check with me for details.

Weighting: The final letter grade will be determined from your cumulative point total based on the following weights:

Quizzes	200
Hour Exam I	200
Hour Exam II	200
Final Exam	200

Grades: The following are the *guaranteed* cuts for the letter grades based upon the 800 point total. In most cases the cuts will be lower than that advertised below:

A–	≥ 710
B–	≥ 620
C–	≥ 520