



Astronomy 021 Sec. 003
Prof. Shantanu Basu

Introductory Slides

Basic Information

- No prerequisites.
- Course designed for students not in the Faculty of Science. Only basic arithmetic used occasionally.
- Please buy the textbook, *The Cosmic Perspective*, by Bennett et al.
- This section does **NOT** use clickers!

Course Information Sheet

- Handed out in class. Also available at www.astro.uwo.ca/~basu/teach/ast021/
- Please also check course website periodically for announcements, latest class slides, etc.

Some Quotes

- “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you” – B. B. King
- “The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible” – Albert Einstein
- “Astronomy tells a story, not only about the universe, but about ourselves” - SB

A few questions

- What is the reason for the seasons?
- Why is the sky blue?
- Where did the matter in our bodies come from?
- How old is the Earth? The solar system? The universe?
- How far is the nearest star? Galaxy? How big is the universe?
- How many planets in our solar system?

Themes of this course

- We are a part of the universe and can learn about our origins by studying the universe
- The universe is comprehensible through scientific principles that anyone can understand
- Science is not a body of “facts” but rather a process by which we seek to understand the world around us

Themes of this course

- A course in astronomy is the beginning of a life-long learning experience
- Astronomy affects each of us personally with the new perspectives it offers

Keys to Success

- **Study time:** 2 to 3 hours per lecture hour, i.e., 6 to 9 hours per week for this course
- Read the week's chapter during the previous weekend
- Attend class for further insights, in-class Q&A, and class participation mark
- Study class slides (available online) and re-read chapter after class. Attempt "Review Questions" and "Test Your Understanding" in text as well as online quizzes and tutorials.
- Spare some more time each week when there is an ongoing project.

First Class Participation Mark

- An assignment
- Go to text website www.masteringastronomy.com. Spend at least one hour exploring the site. After you are done, send me a single email (from UWO account) including
 1. Your name and student number, your year in school (freshman, sophomore, etc.), and a list of prior astronomy courses you may have taken
 2. One or two paragraphs stating what you hope to get out of this class
 3. One or two paragraphs describing what you learned from your “web surfing”. What was your favourite feature of the Mastering Astronomy website, and why? If you explored links to other sites, which site was your favourite, and why?
- **Email to me by next Friday (Sep. 14)!**

This weekend

- Read course information sheet
- In textbook, read “How to Succeed in Your Astronomy Course”, p. xxvii-xxix
- Explore www.masteringastronomy.com using your access code and, complete the first class participation assignment.

Next Week

- Read Project 1,2,3 descriptions by Wednesday. Can do these projects as early as next Tuesday evening
- Read Chapter 1 in the textbook by Wednesday

