

Syllabus for UWX AS100 Survey of Astronomy

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

This is a descriptive survey of astronomy for students with minimal background in mathematics and science. Topics include the solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmology, as well as the methods by which astronomers learn about the Universe and disseminate their discoveries. Students may not earn credit both for this course and for most other introductory astronomy courses. (Consult your home institution's course catalog or bulletin for specifics.)

Prerequisite(s)

This course has no college-level prerequisites; however, students are expected to have a solid grasp of high school math (through Algebra I). Although not math-intensive, this course does occasionally require: use of scientific notation; calculation of squares and cubes and their roots; and simple algebraic manipulation of equations.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge of the Natural World (NW): Courses focus on concepts and applications related to the natural and physical sciences and mathematics.

- Describe and evaluate existing knowledge of the natural world;
- Interpret, analyze, and communicate data, results, and conclusions;

Course Requirements/Components

Lesson quizzes: 28%

Each of the 15 lessons has a corresponding checkup quiz. The lowest quiz score is dropped, and the remaining quizzes count equally (2% each).

Unit tests: 22%

Each of the four units (of 3 or 4 lessons each) ends with an in-depth test. All unit tests count equally.

Research paper: 28%

A research paper is required, in three drafts (8% each). Separate comments are required with the last two drafts (2% each draft).

Discussions: 16%

The first discussion is worth 1%; five more discussions are worth 3% each.

Peer (classmate) reviews: 6%

You will review the first two drafts of the research papers of each of two classmates; each review counts equally. (Note: this grade is for the reviews you *write*, not the reviews you *receive*.)

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range
A	93% - 100%
A-	90% - 92%
B+	87% - 89%
B	83% - 86%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	77% - 79%
C	73% - 76%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	67% - 69%
D	63% - 66%
D-	60% - 62%
F	59% and under