

## SYLLABUS--PHYSICS 162--ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY--Fall 2016

Satisfies general education requirement

David Hedin, LaTourette Hall FW224, hed@niu.edu

nicadd.niu.edu/~hedin/162/162.html

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:15-12:00

Observatory: Gregory Alley Faraday 215A gregory.alley@niu.edu

http://www.physics.niu.edu/physics/observatory/index.shtml

Discovering the Essential Universe by Comins editions 4 or 5 or 6. Or  
The Cosmic Perspective Fundamentals by Bennett, Donahue, Scheider and  
Voit. BOOK NOT REQUIRED. Assigned Problems are on course web page

Section	Cosmic Perspective Ed 1	Essential Universe Ed 6
1 View of Universe and the Sky	1+2	1
2 Gravitation and Planet Motion	2+3	2
3 Light and Telescopes	pages 43,80,125,130,133, 135,148,180,196	3
4 The Sun	8	9
5 Characteristics of Stars	8	10
6 The Lives of Stars	9	11
7 The Death of Stars	10	12
8 The Galaxies	11	13
9 Cosmology	12+13+14	14
10 Formation of the Solar System	4+7	4+5
11 Astrobiology	14	15

Test 1. Sections 1,2,3,4	Wednesday October 5	
Test 2. Sections 5,6,7	Wednesday November 2	all exams:
Test 3. Sections 8,9,10,11	Monday November 28	50 minutes
Test 4. final all sections	Monday December 5	10:00

Grading: Each test will count 100 points and the lowest test score will be dropped. There will be no makeups allowed after the day of the test; a missed test will be considered as the lowest score and dropped. You can choose to skip the final and just count the first three tests. Sample tests are on the web page. The assigned problems are due the day of the test (1/2 credit if late). They contribute 24 points to your grade. The problems will be reviewed at the end of the class immediately preceding each exam day. There will be 2-3 in-class worksheets (1/2 credit if done out of class) each counting 10 points. You can also do extra credit. An extra credit paper should be from 1-2 typed pages. I will not accept papers e-mailed to me. The deadline is before the final. Possible extra credit items are:

1. a visit to the observatory and/or attending the evening viewing event outside Barsema Hall. 10 points maximum for each. Sign in when there and submit a paper.
2. Volunteer for STEMfest. 10 points. submit a paper on what you did.
3. report on a movie shown in class or a physics colloquium. 5 points maximum/movie. Sign in for each.

You can also receive 2 extra credit points each for watching the movies shown in class or attending the colloquiums. This is in addition to the 5 points for the paper.

Class Curve 260+	A	The letter grades posted on Blackboard are
225-259	B	meaningless. If you take 4 exams, Blackboard
180-224	C	does not drop the lowest exam and so the
150-179	D	Blackboard sum of points is incorrect

There will not be any "minus" grades in this class. I will award "plus" grades (like B+) as appropriate and will determine how to do so at the end of the term.

The learning goals of this course are an introduction to the components making up our Universe.

The learning outcome of this course is the student being able to explain some of the components of the Universe.

NIU is committed to providing an accessible educational environment and any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should

let their faculty member know as soon as possible, and are encouraged to contact the DRC at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu.

**Non-Discriminatory Language:** This class will promote non-discriminatory language practices. **Cell Phones/Computers in Classroom:** Cell phones and computers can not be used in class during exam periods, or in a way which is disruptive to the class. **Class Visitation Policy:** Due to liability concerns, only NIU students are allowed to attend at classes at NIU. Guests, including family members and NIU students not registered for the course, will not be permitted to attend class except with prior arrangement with the instructor. **Academic Misconduct:** For a detailed description of the university's definition of academic misconduct, and the process by which it is adjudicated, please refer to the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions (consequences) for committing academic misconduct include but are not limited to, failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and suspension or expulsion from Northern Illinois University. Cheating and plagiarism of one's own or another's work will not be tolerated. Academic integrity and civility in the classroom are expected of every member of the NIU community. Please review the Undergraduate Catalog for more information on this topic. **Religious Observances:** NIU does not observe religious holidays. It is the university's policy, however, to reasonably accommodate the religious observances of individual students in regards to class attendance, scheduling examinations, and work requirements. Religious observance includes all aspects of religious observance and practice as well as belief. Absence from classes or examinations for religious observance does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. To request accommodation, students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall provide instructors with reasonable notice of the date or dates they will be absent.

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