

SYLLABUS--PHYSICS 162H--ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY Honors Section Fall 2017  
Davis Hall 116 Tues-Thurs 12:30-1:45

Satisfies general education requirement (Origins and Influences Pathway)  
David Hedin, LaTourette Hall (FW) 224, hedin@niu.edu  
nicadd.niu.edu/~hedin/162/162h.html  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 11:15-12:00  
Observatory: Matthew Urfer students.mjurfer@gmail.com  
www.physics.niu.edu/physics/observatory/index.shtml  
Discovering the Essential Universe, N.F. Comins, 4th, 5th  
or 6th Ed. Book is not required. Or can use  
The Cosmic Perspective Fundamentals by Bennett, Donahue, Scheider and Voit

Two lectures/week with the Thursday class including in-class activities

Section	Book Chapter	
	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	Thursday 10-5	
Test 2. Sections 5,6,7	Thursday 11-9	all exams:
Test 3. Sections 8,9,10,11	Tuesday 12-5	50 minutes
Test 4. final all sections	Tuesday 12-12 12:00	

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. The Thursday section will count for 100 points based on attendance, participation, and in-class exercises. A project is required which will include a presentation the last week of the term, and will count for 100 points. You can turn in up to three extra credit papers each worth up to 10 points reporting on the movies shown in class or (if we have any) guest lectures/colloquiums. 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 (not 3 hours later). You can also get 10

extra credit points by volunteering for STEMfest in October (submit a report on what you did).

Class Curve	400+	A	The letter grades posted on Blackboard are
	325-399	B	meaningless. If you take 4 exams, Blackboard
	250-324	C	does not drop the lowest exam and so the
	200-249	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, and include a) analyze issues that interconnect human life and the natural world and b) collaborate with others to achieve specific goals.

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](mailto: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.