

MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



AST 151 10
8-19-07

PO Box 547
or
200 Mayland Drive
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-7351 or 1-800-462-9526

**MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Welcomes You To:**

**AST 151 10
General Astronomy I
Credit: 3 Contact: 3**

Course Description

This course introduces the science of modern astronomy with a concentration on the solar system. Emphasis is placed on the history and physics of astronomy and an introduction to the solar system, including the planets, comets and meteors. Upon completion students should be able to demonstrate a general understanding of the solar system. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in natural sciences/mathematics*

Prerequisites: RED 090

Corequisites : None

Instructor Information

Instructor: David Pittman
Office Location: 103b
Telephone Number: 765-7351 ext. 284
E-mail Address: dpittman@mayland.edu
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30 – 5:30
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30- 11:00
OR by appointment

Course Information

Course meetings: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00 – 8:50

Required Text(s): Universe, Freedman, 8th ed.

LRC Resources: none

Required supplies: None

Course Objectives/Competencies:

Astronomy is the scientific study of matter in the universe, especially the positions, distributions, motions, dimensions, compositions, energies and evolutions of celestial

bodies and phenomena. In this class, the first of a two part series, we will begin the study of our solar system. By the end of the semester we should be competent in a variety of topics including: the formation of the solar system, planetary geology, atmospheres, light, spacecraft, comets, meteors, space and time.

Attendance Policy/Tardiness/Make-Up Work:

Prompt and continual attendance is required. All assignments are due 'on time'. Students will receive a zero for any assignment not turned in on time. As for a missed exam, a makeup opportunity will not be allowed, except for authorized excuses (such as notes from a doctor or hospital, proof will be required).

Grading Criteria/Tests/Projects:

Tests	60%
Homework	20%
Papers & Projects & Pop Tests	20%

Grading Scale:

A =>	90
90 > B =>	80
80 > C =>	70
70 > D =>	60
60 > F =>	0

Inclement Weather Procedures:

If we experience dangerous weather conditions do not risk your safety to attend class. Any classes that are missed due to weather will be made up, at a time that is satisfactory to all.

Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:

Do your own work. Be cordial to and respectful of your classmates. If you cheat on a test, copy someone's homework, or exhibit unethical behavior; you will be subject to one or more of the following: (1) No credit for the assignment/exam and/or (2) removal from the course. If you wish to contest any assertion of failure to meeting academic standards, you may exercise the due process options listed in the Student Handbook.

Withdrawal Dates:

End of unconditional withdrawal: September 25, 2007

End of conditional withdrawal: November 1, 2007

If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not attended class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor

Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

Course Outline/Weekly Topics

Week 1	Astronomy and the scientific method
Week 2	Constellations, precession, time, calendars.
Week 3	Eclipses and the motion of the moon.
Week 4	Gravity, Kepler and Newtons Laws.
Week 5	The physics of light.
Week 6	Optics and telescopes, EXAM I.
Week 7	Our solar system.
Week 8	The earth.
Week 9	The moon.
Week 10	Mercury.
Week 11	Venus, EXAM II.
Week 12	Mars.
Week 13	Jupiter.
Week 14	Saturn.
Week 15	The outer planets.
Week 16	The sun, FINAL EXAM.