

Astronomy 1074
Planetary Skies and Landscapes
Summer 2010

Instructor: Larry DeWarf
463 Mendel Hall
519-4824
Laurence.DeWarf@Villanova.edu

Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00pm (Tuesday, Friday); or by appointment

Text: *21st Century Astronomy*, third edition, by Hester *et al.* (Norton)

Course Description

The Solar System is our local neighborhood in space. It consists of the Sun (an average star) and all the material that is bound by gravity to it. This includes the planets, their moons, asteroids, and comets. The purpose of this course is manifold. Some of our specific goals will be:

To see how our Solar System came into existence.

Discover the basic processes that shaped the surfaces and atmospheres of the planets.

Be able to compare and contrast the Earth and its fellow planets, and therefore gain some insight into the uniqueness of our home world.

To learn whether there might be other places in the Solar System, besides the Earth, that could harbor life.

To learn how we have come to understand so much about our Solar System.

Planetary Skies and Landscapes along with the co-requisite laboratory (AST1075 - *Planets*) are core science courses, required for College of Arts and Sciences students. Students **MUST** also complete the related course (AST1072 - *Birth and Death of Stars*), and its associated lab (AST1073 - *Stellar Lab*) to fulfill their Villanova Natural Science core requirement with this course sequence.

Disability Policy

It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability please contact me after class or during office hours and make arrangements to register with the Learning Support Office by contacting 610-519-5636 or at Nancy.Mott@Villanova.edu as soon as possible. Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations.

Grading

There will be four (4) in-class Hourly exams and one (1) cumulative Final exam. Not attending any one of these exams will result in a score of zero (0), which could have a serious impact on your final grade! If an exam is missed due to an *excused* absence, a makeup exam will be scheduled. In fairness to all students, the makeup exams will be of a different format than the in-class tests. They may incorporate short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions.

The cumulative exam grade will be computed from the above test scores according to the following formula,

$$\frac{Test_1 + Test_2 + Test_3 + Test_4 + Final}{5}$$

Your final letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

| | |
|----|------------|
| A | 93 + |
| A- | 90 - 92.99 |
| B+ | 87 - 89.99 |
| B | 83 - 86.99 |
| B- | 80 - 82.99 |
| C+ | 77 - 79.99 |
| C | 73 - 76.99 |
| C- | 70 - 72.99 |
| D+ | 67 - 69.99 |
| D | 63 - 66.99 |
| D- | 60 - 62.99 |
| F | 00 - 59.99 |

A Word on Academic Integrity

As a community committed to the Augustinian ideals of truth, unity, and love, Villanova University prides itself on maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity and does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty or misconduct. As is true with all work done at Villanova (or anywhere else for that matter), there is a well-defined policy that applies to Academic Integrity. This policy can be found in its entirety in your Echiridion (see *Policy on Academic Integrity* and the Appendix I). You should read and understand this policy. To paraphrase, there are seven specific sections addressed by this policy: Cheating, Fabrication, Assisting in or Contributing to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Multiple Submission of Work, Unsanctioned Collaboration, and Other Forms of Dishonesty. To paraphrase the stance of this course on these issues: There will be **NO** Cheating, Fabrication, Assisting in or Contributing to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Multiple Submission of Work, Unsanctioned Collaboration, **OR** Other Forms of Dishonesty tolerated in this class!

If it comes to pass that an Academic Integrity infraction occurs, the Instructor may (but is not limited to) reduce the score on the offending assignment, reduce the course grade, and/or refer the individual to the Board of Academic Integrity.