Instructor: Larry DeWarf
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463 Mendel Hall
519-4824

Office Hours: 2:30 - 3:30 Monday; 2:00 - 4:00 Wednesday; 2:30 - 3:30 Thursday


Course Description:

A study of the life cycles of the stars from their birth in dark, dense interstellar dust clouds to their deaths in natures most violent cataclysms with a focus on stars and humanity, the formation of the chemical elements, the effects of nearby supernovae, the future of the Sun and the ultimate fate of Earth, and the question of planetary systems around other stars.

Birth & Death of Stars along with the co-requisite laboratory, AST1073, are a core science courses, required for College of Arts and Sciences students. These students MUST also complete AST1074 and its associated lab to fulfill their core requirement with this course sequence.

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.
Grading

There will be three (3) in-class Hourly Exams and a cumulative Final Exam. Not attending any one of these exams will result in a score of zero (0)! This 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, factoring in the Observatory credit (see below), according to the higher of the two following formulae

\[
(0.98) \times \left( \frac{\text{Test}_1 + \text{Test}_2 + \text{Test}_3 + \text{Final}}{4} \right) + (0.02) \times \text{Obs}
\]

or,

\[
(0.98) \times \left( \frac{\text{Test}_1 + \text{Test}_2 + \text{Test}_3 + 2 \times \text{Final}}{5} \right) + (0.02) \times \text{Obs}
\]

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

- A 93 +
- 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

Note: Those who obtain an average of 93% or higher on the three Hourly Exams may, at their discretion, choose to not participate in the Final Exam without penalty.

Observatory Obligation

A major portion of astronomical study involves the observation of the nighttime sky. As such, you are to attend an observing session at Villanova’s Student Observatory. The Observatory is located on the fourth floor of Mendel Hall (M468) and is open Monday through Thursday, provided school is in session. It’s hours of operation are 8:00-10:00pm, but after November 2, 2008, the hours will shift to 7:00-9:00pm.

Two (2) percent of the overall course grade are determined by attending an observing session AND signing the attendance sheet there AND submitting a one page synopsis of your observations before the final exam. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet and submit the observing report.

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.