

## Syllabus for Astronomy 1000: *Introduction To The Universe*

Section **A**: TTh 11:00 –12:15 Education Bldg. 1120

Section **B**: TTh 2:00 – 3:15 Carrol 1024

Section **C**: TTh 3:30 – 4:45 Biology 1119

**Description:** This one semester course will survey the Universe, starting with the Earth & Solar System. From there we will move progressively outward in space and examine stars – their birth, evolution, and death. Next we will explore our own Milky Way galaxy before encountering the myriad galaxies. Other topics will include the evolving Universe and the prospects for extra-terrestrial life. Only very simple mathematics will be used.

**Textbook:** *Astronomy Today* (Chaisson & McMillan - 6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**Instructor:** Prof. James Higdon

**Office:** MP 2010

**Phone:** 478-0130

**Website:** <http://cheller.phy.georgiasouthern.edu/~jhigdon>  
(copies of lectures, study guides, practice tests will be on-line)

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**Office Hours:** Wed. 3:00 to 4:00 PM (or by arrangement)

**Course Grades:** Grades will be based on performance in 7-10 pop-quizzes (10%), three in-class exams, of which the lowest score will be dropped (30% each), and an in-class final exam (30%). The quizzes will cover material from *preceding* lecture and will be at the beginning of the class period. Thus, while class attendance is not mandatory, it is in your best interest to attend every lecture to avoid missing a quiz. Grades will be made available on Vista. Extra credit (10%) will consist of two 2-page *handwritten* essays on some recent or current astronomical event. One will be due at Midterm, the second on the last week of class.

**Examinations:** Exams will be multiple-choice questions. The schedule is as follows:

Exam #1: 11 September

Exam #2: 9 October

Exam #3: 6 November

**Final Exams:** (A) Dec. 11, 10:00-noon, (B) Dec. 11, 12:30-2:30, (C) Dec. 9, 3:00-5:00

**Make-Up Exams:** There will be no make-up exams *per se*. A student who misses an exam will be allowed to drop it. There will be no make-up quizzes. The only exceptions are for medical emergencies, for which a doctor's note will be required.

**Grade Scale:** Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of total possible points scored in exams, quizzes, & extra credit assignments by the student:

**A** (85-100%), **B** (75-84%), **C** (63-74%), **D** (54-62%), **F** (<54%) (no curve)

**Cell-Phone Policy:** We will cover a lot of material. **For this reason the classroom will be a cell-phone free zone.** All cell-phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. Please be considerate to your fellow classmates. Students using cell-phones during quizzes or exams will receive a grade of zero for that quiz or exam.