

ASTRONOMY 294 – TOPICS IN ASTROPHYSICS
SYLLABUS
Autumn Quarter 2008, Winter Quarter 2009

Course coordinator: Professor Bradley Peterson
Office: 4055 McPherson Laboratory, 292-2022
E-mail: peterston@astronomy.ohio-state.edu
Webpage URL: <http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~peterston/Ast294/>
Classroom: 4054 McPherson Laboratory
Class Hours: T, 4:30 – 5:18 p.m.
Call No.: 22846-8

Course Objectives and Philosophy:

This is a two-quarter seminar that is intended to introduce prospective astronomy majors to the undergraduate astronomy program at Ohio State. There will be introductory lectures on practical aspects of the major program, including course of study, careers in astronomy, observational facilities available to Ohio State faculty and students, the Center for Cosmology and Astro-Particle Physics (CCAPP) connection with the Department of Physics, and opportunities for engagement of undergraduate students (including a discussion of REU opportunities, the OSU Astronomy Summer Undergraduate Research Program, the Ohio State University Astronomical Society, and OSU outreach opportunities). Each of the remaining sessions will feature an Ohio State faculty member, who will describe his or her research program at a level suitable for first-year undergraduates.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Textbook:

None required.

Grades and Attendance:

This course will be graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory only. Grades will be based on attendance and short (one-page) essays on the topics discussed. No more than two unexcused absences will be permitted for a passing grade. Excused absences will be granted if a class conflicts with an approved University function (e.g., if you are a member of a varsity athletic team or *TBDBITL* and are required to leave town), provided that you obtain permission from the course coordinator at least a week in advance.

Roof Nights:

“Roof nights” constitute what might be called a casual laboratory for the 100-level introductory astronomy courses. Astronomy 294 students are cordially invited to attend. The Roof Night schedule can be found through a link on the Astronomy Department website.

Academic Misconduct:

All Ohio State instructors are required to report suspected cases of academic misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. See the University's Code of Student Conduct for details.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the course coordinator to discuss specific needs. We will work with the Office for Disability Services (ODS) to verify the need for accommodation and develop appropriate strategies. Students with disabilities who have not previously contacted ODS should do so in advance by visiting the ODS website and requesting an appointment. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Autumn Quarter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic or Presenter</u>
30 September	<i>Careers in Astronomy</i> / Professor Peterson
7 October	<i>Majoring in Astronomy</i> / Professor Martini
14 October	<i>Observational Facilities (OSU and public)</i> / Professor Pogge
21 October	Professor Barbara Ryden
28 October	Professor Christopher Kochanek
4 November	Professor David Weinberg
11 November	VETERANS DAY (NO CLASS)
18 November	Professor Todd Thompson
25 November	Professor Paul Martini
2 December	Professor Scott Gaudi

Winter Quarter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic or Presenter</u>
6 January	<i>Opportunities for Engagement (REUs/SURP/Outreach/OSUAS)</i> / Professor Martini
13 January	<i>Links with Physics: The CCAPP Connection</i> / Professor Terry Walker
20 January	Professor Jennifer Johnson
27 January	Professor Kris Stanek
3 February	Professor Richard Pogge
10 February	Professor Bradley Peterson
17 February	Professor Anil Pradhan
24 February	Professor Smita Mathur
3 March	Professor Kris Sellgren
10 March	Professor Marc Pinsonneault