Astronomy 100

- CRN: 91412, Sec: 810, Credits: 3.00
- Instructor: Dr. Shashi Kanbur, Rm 124A, Snygg Hall, SUNY Oswego.
- Email: kanbur@oswego.edu, Tel: 412 2679.
- Office Hours: Mondays: 2.00-3.00pm, Wednesdays 2.00-3.00pm, Fridays 2-3pm, or make an appointment by phone or email.
- Lectures: MWF, 10.20-11.15am, in Mahar 204.
- Book: "The Cosmic Perspective," by Bennett, Donahue, Schneider and Voit and Jewett, sixth edition.
- Brief Introduction to the Course: A general introduction to modern Astronomy for non-science majors: we will cover some aspects of naked eye astronomy, the solar system, basic properties of stars and some cosmology. A few equations will be preseneted but these are only required to be understood at a qualitative level.
- Layout of the Course:
  - Traditional lectures, some class discussion, some computer demonstrations.
  - Knowledge is Constructed not Received.
  - We will use Angel and for the second half of most lectures we will be doing questions which are posted on Angel.
  - These questions consist of "pre-lecture quizzes" and "lecture quizzes." The pre-lecture quizzes need to be done before a certain date. The lecture quizzes have more flexibility. You can work in groups. You should bring the lecture quizzes to class to work on for the second part of the lecture - again you can work in groups. Both pre-lecture quizzes and lecture quizzes count about $20-25\%$ toward your grade. Please take these assignments seriously.
  - Algebra based.
  - Reading Assignments, homeworks, in class exams and a comprehensive final.
  - Some group work.
  - Classroom Attendance: Roll call will be taken periodically without warning and this will count somewhat to your grade. Attending lectures is highly recommended. Participating in class room activities will increase your understanding of the material.

- Grading: There will be three in class exams and a compehensive final exam. The lowest grade from the three semester exams will be dropped. During the class time we will frequently discuss problems similar to what will be on the exams. These exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and other types of questions but make up exams for the three in class exams will be essays. We will follow SUNY Oswego guidelines regarding makeup for the final exams. Bring a number 2 pencil and college ID card to all exams. No textbooks will be allowed in these exams. All equations that you may need will be given.
- The exams will not test your memory of equations but your understanding of them.
- The final exam will be on Wednesday December 15, 8.00am-10.00am.
- The first in class exam will be around the middle/end of February, depending on what progress we make. I will give you plenty of warning and also schedule a review session before such in class exams.
- There will be a number of homework assignments. You are strongly advised to make concerted efforts to try these and understand the solutions. They will be similar to the type of questions you will get in the exams. You may discuss these with friends but the final submitted solution must be your own work. Not meeting the deadline for a homework assignment submission will result in a zero mark for that homework assignement.
- There will be reading assignments: these are so that you become somewhat familiar with the concepts and ideas you will encounter that day in class. You are not expected to understand the material after a reading assignment.There may be some pop-quizzes after some reading assignments.
- Thus the best 3 out of 4 exams will count to 70-75% of your grade, homeworks and peer evaluation, 20-25%, quizzes on readings and group work, attendance 5-10%.
- How do I succeed in this class?
  * Come to class, get the book, particpate in class.
  * Do NOT be afraid to ask questions.
  * Do the homeoworks, reading assignments and understand the solutions.
  * Do the reading assignments.
  * Stay current, hand homeowrks in on time.
  * Think about the material, remain open to be moved, inspired by the material.