

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, ENGINEERING AND ASTRONOMY

COURSE OUTLINE

ASTR 312
HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

INSTRUCTOR: Greg Arkos
OFFICE: Building 315, Room 209
OFFICE HOURS: T, R 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm *or by appointment*
PHONE: (250) 753-3245 Local 2207
EMAIL: gregory.arkos@viu.ca
COURSE WEBSITE: <https://wordpress.viu.ca/arkosg/>

OBJECTIVES: Astronomy 312 is a detailed examination of the development of modern astronomical ideas within a historical framework. Both traditional (western) and non-traditional influences on astronomy will be discussed. Basic astronomical concepts will be introduced as required. The course will span recorded human history, from early man’s view of the heavens to our recent understanding of the cosmos. The course stresses conceptual understanding and discussion. No formal background in astronomy is assumed or required.

PREREQUISITES: Third year standing or permission of the instructor.

LECTURE: TR 11:30 am – 1 pm Bldg 315, Rm 216

TEXT: All required material will be in the lecture notes and/or provided.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Read the course outline *carefully*; it is assumed that you are **fully aware** of its contents with regards to dates & deadlines, evaluation and policies. You are responsible for keeping up with material presented in lecture and monitoring your progress in the course. Please speak with me **immediately** if you are having difficulties which might impact your grade in the course.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS: Academic dishonesty can have serious repercussions on your academic career and is taken very seriously at VIU. Read Policy 96.01 found on www2.viu.ca/policies/policies-index.asp under section “9600 Appeals and Withdrawals” which is under section “9000 Senate”.

EVALUATION: Final Exam (3 hrs).....40%
 Midterm Exam (in class).....25%
 Quizzes (4).....10%
 Group Presentation (in class).....25%

**** Please read the important course polices at the bottom of the following page. ****

ASTRONOMY PRESENTATION: Students work in groups of three (3), with each member responsible for researching, creating and presenting a portion of the presentation. **A single grade** is assigned to each group and **applies to all members**. Presentations take place near the end of term during class; dates are TBD. Detailed instructions and the marking rubric are available on the course website.

GRADES: Final grades are assigned *approximately* as follows:

- A+ (90 - 100)
- A (85 - 89)
- A- (80 - 84)
- B+ (76 - 79)
- B (72 - 75)
- B- (68 - 71)
- C+ (64 - 67)
- C (60 - 63)
- C- (55 - 59)
- D (50 - 54)
- F (0 - 49)

FAILING GRADES: Students worried about poor grades should see me as soon as possible. Do not drop out before speaking with me! **Grades on labs, quizzes and exams must be discussed within a week of their return and will not be reassessed after that time.** Please see the [online](#) Vancouver Island University Calendar regarding policies on registration. **** The last day for academic penalty-free withdrawal from courses is listed below. ****

**** IMPORTANT course policies – READ CAREFULLY ****

- 1 Concerns regarding graded material MUST be raised within a week of its return.
- 2 Late submissions will NOT be accepted for grading WITHOUT prior approval.
- 3 Requests for exam deferrals REQUIRE official supporting documentation.
- 4 There will be NO “extra” or “make-up” work for this course.
- 5 Students MUST be available for the entire term, eg. the entire final exam period.
- 6 There will be NO accommodation of non-university related travel, eg. vacations.

TENTATIVE QUIZ, EXAM & PRESENTATION DATES:

Quiz 1	Sept 13
Quiz 2	Sept 27
Presentation Proposal	Oct 4
Quiz 3	Oct 11
Midterm Exam	Oct 25
Quiz 4	Nov 8
Presentations	Nov 27 – Dec 6

IMPORTANT DATES:

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES: September 4, 2018
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: October 29, 2018
LAST DAY OF CLASSES: December 7, 2018
FINAL EXAMINATIONS: December 10 – 19, 2018

HOLIDAYS: (No classes, labs or exams)

THANKSGIVING: October 8, 2018
STUDY DAYS: November 12 – 16, 2018
REMEMBRANCE DAY: November 12, 2018

TOPICS: The following is a *tentative* list of topics that will be covered in this course.

Subject

Early Astronomy: science, astrology, non-western astronomy, Greek astronomy, geocentric model

The Age of Reason: Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo and the heliocentric model, Newton

Modern Astronomy: discovery of Uranus & Neptune, size of the solar system & Milky Way

The Space Age: Mercury, Gemini & Apollo programs; landing on the Moon

**** NOTE: Circumstances may require modifications to the dates & topics in this outline. ****