

Syllabus - 2016

Lecture date, number — Subjects

- Tu Jan 19: 1 Introduction, syllabus & class rules; units and scales, Earth rotation, time zones, constellations, 'Grand Tour'
- Th Jan 21: 2 Seasons, phases, eclipses
- Tu Jan 26: 3 History 1: The Greeks, Copernicus, Tycho, Kepler
- Th Jan 28: 4 History 2: Galileo, Newton
- Tu Feb 2: 5 How science works
- Th Feb 4: 6 The nature of light, telescopes
- Tu Feb 9: Exam 1: Lectures 1 — 6
- Th Feb 11: 7 How astronomers use spectra to learn about stars
- Tu Feb 16: 8 Stars: distance, luminosity, mass,..., star formation
- Th Feb 18: 9 Stars: our Sun
- Tu Feb 23: 10 Stars: energy generation, main sequence life
- Th Feb 25: 11 Stars: life from main sequence to white dwarf
- Tu Mar 1: 12 Stars: death — supernovae, neutron stars, black holes
- Th Mar 3: Exam 2: Lectures 7 — 12
- Tu Mar 8: Lectures 1 – 12 Help session + Bad weather backup
- Th Mar 10: Exam 3: Lectures 1 — 12
- Tu Mar 22: 13 Our Galaxy — the Milky Way
- Th Mar 24: 14 Galaxies: properties, clusters of galaxies, dark matter
- Tu Mar 29: 15 Galaxies: evolution, distances, expansion of Universe
- Th Mar 31: 16 Galaxies: active galaxies, supermassive black holes
- Tu Apr 5: 17 Cosmology: Big Bang — evolution of the Universe
- Th Apr 7: Exam 4: Lectures 13 — 17
- Tu Apr 12: 18 Solar System: introduction, formation
- Th Apr 14: 19 Solar System: other solar systems, Jupiter—Neptune
- Tu Apr 19: 20 Solar System: outer parts: Pluto, Kuiper belt, comets
- Th Apr 21: 21 Solar System: satellites, asteroids, Moon, Mercury
- Tu Apr 26: 22 Solar System: Mars and Venus
- Th Apr 28: 23 Solar System: Earth
- Tu May 3: 24 History of life on Earth, life in the Universe
- Th May 5: Exam 5: Lectures 18 — 24

Mar 14 — 18: Spring Break

There will be no final exam.

There will be no makeup exams.

There will be a help session on the night before every exam except Exam 3. Check the class web site for times and locations.