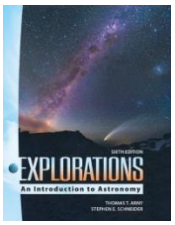
ASTRONOMY 311: *Introduction to Astronomy*

Winterim 2014 Online Syllabus: **http://www.uwsp.edu/physastr/Documents/kmenning/Astr311.pdf**
Course Schedule WebAssign: **https://www.webassign.net/login.html** **WebAssign Hints**

Instructor:	Dr. Ken Menningen	**Office hours:**	M	T	W	R	F
Office:	B101 Science Building	10:00am -2:00pm	X	X	X	X	X
Phone:	(715) 346-4871						
email:	Ken.Menningen@uwsp.edu						
		By appointment	X	X	X	X	X



Course Prerequisites: None.

Required text: *Explorations*, by Thomas Arny, 6th edition (available at Text Rental)

Other required materials: Scientific calculator (graphing capability is **not** necessary), and a **WebAssign** access code (purchase at the bookstore for $35 or online for $20)

Optional materials: *Star and Planet Locator* (purchase at the bookstore)

Course Objectives: *Introduction to Astronomy* presents the fundamental concepts required for an understanding of planetary and galactic astronomy. The principle objectives are:

- Understand the fundamental concepts regarding the solar system, stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies.
- Use algebra and graphing methods to explain measurements and make predictions.
- Understand the usefulness and limitations of applying problem-solving methods to realistic examples

Attendance: **This is an online course!** Most of the course activity will be conducted online. However, there are two examinations that will be proctored on campus on two afternoons (see below). Off-campus proctoring arrangements can also be made. There is also an optional planetarium lesson scheduled for 10:00am Thursday, January 2, 2014.

Grading policy: The grade you earn in this class will be based upon the four assignment types listed below. A grading scale is also given for your reference. Grades are not curved, encouraging you to work together, but I expect each student to hand in their own work. The lowest lab, homework and quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the course.

Grading Scale

Letter	Score
A− → A	90 – 100
B− → B → B+	75 – 89
C− → C → C+	60 – 74
D → D+	50 – 59
F	0 – 49

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Weight
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Homework	20%
"In-class" work	20%

Exams: A midterm exam is scheduled to occur at **4:00 pm on Thursday, January 9, 2014.** Late exams are not allowed, but in special cases you may take an exam early. The final exam is tentatively scheduled for **4:00 pm on Friday, January 17, 2014**.

Homework: Two types of assignments go into the homework category. There will be regular **chapter assignments** with questions that can be answered by understanding the class notes or reading the textbook, and **in-class assignments** that represent short exercises that are normally done during a lecture session. These have instead been converted into WebAssign assignments but still retain the name "in-class." Both kinds of assignments will be submitted using the WebAssign homework system. The homework is due on the day and at the time indicated on the WebAssign system. To avoid a zero for late homework you must warn me by phone or email ***before it is due*** and make special arrangements. If you are too ill to complete the assignment, please see a doctor, and have the doctor write an excuse. If you cannot submit an assignment on time, you should complete as much as you can before the deadline for full credit. After the deadline has passed you may request an extension (click on "Past Assignments", then "Extension Request"). The system gives you 12 more hours to finish the assignment (starting from the time you click) and grants you half credit on all work completed during the extension period.

Tentative Course Schedule:

[For a detailed course schedule with links to course content, see the online course schedule]

Day	Chs.	Topics
1	1	The night sky
2	2	Lunar phases, history
2	3	Gravitation
3	7,8	The solar system
4	9	The inner planets
4	10	The outer planets
5	11	Comets, asteroids and meteors
5	4	The nature of light
7	5,12	Telescopes, the sun
8	13	Classification of stars
8	14	Formation of stars
9	14,15	Death of stars
10	16	The Milky Way galaxy
10	17	Galaxies galore
11	18	Cosmology

Community Rights & Responsibilities:

Students with special needs should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester in order to request accommodation. An Exam Accommodation Request Form is available online. Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor about the conflict within the first three weeks of class. Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity for their work in this course. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding special accommodations, misconduct, religious beliefs accommodation, discrimination and absence for university sponsored events. (For details please refer to the Community Rights & Responsibilities documents, including the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures document.