



The wise man doesn't give the right answers, he poses the right questions. --Claude Levi-Strauss, Belgian anthropologist

Astronomy 100

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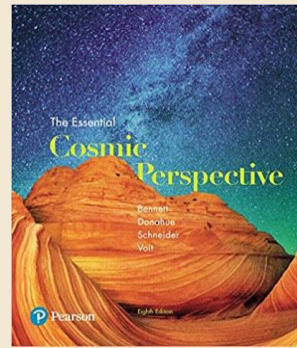
Lecture Online: asynchronous

Student Hours

Please visit the link on the left (or on Canvas) for the latest office hours.

**also by appointment and via email*

Textbook



[The Essential Cosmic Perspective by Jeffrey Bennett, et al., 8th edition](#) (the previous edition would be ok too)

Course description

Survey of major topics in astronomy including scale of the cosmos, light and spectra, the night sky, and life cycles of the stars. The selection of topics will be driven to some extent by student interest.

Learning outcomes



- Understand the course-specific content of astronomy.
- Understand the questions and methods of research used by astronomers.
- Communicate scientific ideas effectively (written/oral/electronic media).
- Understand, interpret and assess the value of publicly presented astronomy issues.
- Research topics relevant to course content (library/internet/interview).



Course content (see Canvas for weekly updates)

- The sky and quick tour of the cosmos (ch.1-2)
- Copernican revolution (ch.3)
- Solar system and its origins (ch.6)
- Meteorites, asteroids, and comets (ch.9)
- Light and spectroscopy (ch.5)
- HR diagram (ch.11)
- Stellar evolution (ch.12-13)
- Terrestrial worlds (ch.7)
- Life in the Universe (ch.19)
- Other topics (based on student interest)

Chapters are based on Bennett's The Essential Cosmic Perspective, 8th ed.

Grading

Grading components	Weight
homework	10%
participation	15%
Journals	15%
presentation/Science articles	15%
stargazing	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	20%

The midterm occurs roughly halfway into the quarter and the final occurs during [finals week](#). All due dates can be found in Canvas's Calendar. Links to all the assignments can be found in the weekly to-do lists located in weekly modules in Canvas.

Grading scale

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale (1% = 0.1):

%	Grade
95 or higher	4.0
90	3.5
85	3.0
80	3.5



75	2.0
70	1.5
65	1.0

Only grades of a 0.7 or above will earn credit. Below 0.7, the assigned grade is a 0.0.

Students are guaranteed a grade no worse than one based on the scale above, but they may also benefit from bonuses acquired in exceptional participation.

Feedback

Scores for all assignments will be shown in the Canvas gradebook. Quizzes and exams are multiple-choice and are scored immediately after submission. Journals and forums are graded on completion and scores in the Canvas gradebook relating to them will be updated every couple of weeks, as the cumulative posting pattern evolves. For questions/issues requiring an immediate response, please contact me during the Office Hours times indicated in Canvas's 'Modules:Course Info:Office Hours' link. During other times, email is the best way to reach me and you can expect a response within 24 hours.

Special Accommodations: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please provide the instructor with the Letter of Accommodation you have received from the Office of Access Services. Contact info for Access Services is: phone: 206-592-3857, email: access@highline.edu, or web site: www.access.highline.edu.

Student rights and responsibilities: One of the fundamental objectives of this institution is to provide the students with a high-quality education while developing in them a sense of ethics and social responsibility. Students are therefore always expected to abide by the highest ethical standards. Unethical conduct, most notably discrimination and various forms of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, *etc.*), hurts the entire community and is subject to disciplinary action, as laid out in the [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) document available at the Office of the Dean of Students. Anyone aware of such unethical activities should report to the instructor.

"Living up to basic ethical standards in the classroom—discipline, tolerance, honesty—is one of the most important ways children learn how to function in society at large." -- Eloise Salholz

Tutoring: If you need extra help with this or any other class, you may find the [tutoring center](#) (26-319, x3444) useful. The people are friendly and the

services are free. Many other student resources can be found here: <https://www.highline.edu/current-students/>

Cultural Diversity Policy: Highline College actively promotes and supports a learning and work environment which ensures social justice, mutual respect, understanding, civility, and non-violence. Highline College is committed to the elimination of all discrimination, including that based on gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnic background, national origin, class, economic status, age, military and veteran status, disability, language, culture, and religious beliefs.

Inclusivity Statement: Highline actively promotes and supports a learning environment which ensures social justice, mutual respect, understanding, civility, and nonviolence. Everyone is expected to contribute to an environment of mutual respect.

Grievance Procedure: In the case of a complaint about a course, students are encouraged to speak with their instructor first, and if the matter is not resolved, students should then contact the division chair if the complaint is against a full-time faculty member, or with the department coordinator if the complaint is against a part-time faculty member. For more detail, please visit: http://catalog.highline.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=33#Instructional_grievance