ASTR 12600 1, PHSC 12600 1 - Matter, Energy, Space, and Time - Instructor(s): Paolo Privitera

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **126**
Number of Responses: **56**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
The conceptual elements of astrophysics.
physics. p interesting
I have learned very valuable information about how particles move within objects and around us all at once.
The most important skill that I learned is problem–solving. Through doing the problem sets, I got a chance to utilize what I learned in class in many ways in order to solve the problem.
Deeper understanding of the concept of time
The historical scientific discoveries that shape our perspective of the universe even to this day. Galileo, Einstein, and Newton all contribute to this understanding and it has shaped the way I see the universe.
default space stuff yk the drill. kinda like intro the physics
The relationship between matter, energy, space, and time.
Learnt about matter, energy, space, and time.
The history and basics of astrophysics.
I learned about key topics in astrophysics such as relativity, matter, and light. I gained quantitative skills from the homework assignments and labs.
The basic overview of the history and understanding of the fundamental concepts in physics.
Basic understanding of astrophysics.
So much! I left with a sense of excitement and inspired to learn more after Professor Privitera gave such a wonderful introduction to what felt like almost all of physics
We learned a thorough introduction to physics and astrophysics. We learned about time dilation, gravity, spectra, light, thermodynamics, gas laws, and so much more.
Physics.
General introductory knowledge about all things astrophysics: matter, energy, space, and time.
Basics of astronomy
Learned basic concepts relating to physics with real–world applications and an emphasis on astronomy.
Understanding of the nature of the Universe through contemporary physics phenomenon and concepts of important scientists – general and special relativity, quantum mechanics, Einstein, Galileo, Kepler.
Parallax angles, special/general relativity, contributions of several prominent physicists/scientists to modern scientific thought
I learned a lot of valuable fundamentals in physics and how they practically relate to the world, from an atomic level to a galactic level.
Well, a knowledge on physics.
I learned a great deal about the universe and how it works–I was stuck in Newton land before this course
It's an introduction to a fairly huge array of topics across physics.
Relativity, quantum physics and light
I learned so much about well everyone, and I really enjoyed that.
Physics concepts and lab reports
I learned about the different notions of relativity over time – from Aristotle to Galileo and Newton to Einstein in understanding concepts like time dilation and length contraction. The difference between classical and quantum mechanics was stressed toward the latter part of the course. Even if some of the lectures include calculus, the math you need to know is all algebraic. A lot of the content is new to everyone since this is an astrophysics course which makes the material engaging and fun to work through with peers!
Quantum mechanics, calculating distance between galaxies and stars, Relativity, and Gas laws.
How space works
Matter Energy Space and Time.
not much, akin to all the teaching of 1 week in high–school physics
physics and time
Concepts of time, some basic Physics used to calculate astronomical phenomena
I learned a variety of basic physical concepts for astrophysics and the course also pushed me to improve my studying skills.

Comments
– Learning how to craft lab reports and conduct experiments – Learning about the basic physical phenomena that the universe is centered around such as gravity, relativity, etc. – Newtonian physics, mass, energy, time – Learning about important mathematical skills like error propagation, dimensional analysis
An overview of astronomy and physics discoveries, with a lot of focus on the nature of space and time.
I learned a lot about everything related to physics and astronomy! I also learned how to approach physical phenomena and what to make note of in order to understand assignments, etc.
The favorite things I learned about were quantum mechanics and parallaxes. I also really enjoyed doing the particle–wave duality lab, and learning the reasoning behind concluding that light is both a particle and a wave.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The lectures helped lay out the information, and the labs confirmed it.
labs were very good under MacKenzie Ferrari; try and get her she's SO NICE and good at teaching class is also low–key interesting Paolo is a good lecturer
Lectures and labs were very useful in teaching me specific elements used in home–works. They allowed me to reach a deeper understanding of the material.
Assignments contributed to my learning by directing me to think in different angles and be flexible to in using what I learned in lectures.
Lecture gave me necessary knowledge to complete my assessments
They all gave me new perspectives and insights. When I look up at the night sky, It is much different then before.
lectures and labs both very helpful.
lectures and labs provided the basis for understanding the concepts, then actual application of it.
Lectures and specifically, the slides, were very unstructured, disorganised, and often failed to include adequate explanations for concepts that are being introduced. Labs were also rather useless and did not help complete assignments or exams. The homework assignments were very useful as it actually signalled what topics would be included in exams and how you are supposed to apply it when solving questions. However, the assignments sometimes covered topics that were not mentioned/ explained fully during lectures.
Classes are informative but at times quite dense due to the nature of the subject. Lecture slides are always uploaded to Canvas after class. Labs are fun and relatively easy. Homework assignments are much tougher than the labs.
Lectures were the most important part of my learning as they helped with homework and test prep. The labs provided a hands–on opportunity to apply some of the concepts in lecture such as the wave–particle duality of light. The homeworks were insightful though sometimes notably different than what was covered in lecture.
The lectures and slides offered the most information the more effectively.
Labs were very hands–on and helpful. Assignments are very confusing because class is mostly spent on the theoretical and no practice problems are done. Recommend going to TAs for help with that.
Lectures were fascinating and brilliantly structured! The final assignment was really fun and allowed us to really explore something from the class that interested us. The labs were great ways to see what we learned in lecture come to life
Lecture was somewhat helpful. It is a really large lecture hall and the presentations are mostly pictures rather than clear and concise notes. If you try very hard to pay attention, maybe it would be more useful. Pritzvera is a very intelligent professor, but he is sometimes hard to understand. Labs were essential to understanding some of the larger concepts.
I found the homeworks to be most helpful. The lectures were fun as well.
The assignments help cement the knowledge from lectures through practice.
Labs helped a lot and so did homeworks
Very interesting labs. Good lectures
Lecture was fine although could have read the slides outside of class and not gone. Labs were better although still basic often finished quickly and didn't go into much detail.
Lectures were pretty much just info–dumps of really niche information that really did not follow from slide to slide logically. It was hard to stay focused and even harder to retain anything, especially since a lot of the information in the slideshows that SEEMED important (i.e. formulas, scientific axioms, etc.) never ended up being on the homework or quizzes. Office hours were helpful in explaining certain concepts on the homework that were glossed over or barely touched on in lectures, but the homework itself—

Comments
while perhaps tangentially helpful in grasping a few major topics in the course—involved an actual understanding of the material that was virtually impossible to have grasped from the arcane nature of the lectures. Our final project was really the only assignment that helped me apply a lot of the material and actually retain it; this is most likely because of the liberal and creative nature of the project.
The labs definitely made me internalize the concepts.
I think there were some interesting aspects in class such as experiments, and they draw my attention the most. Apart from that some points being addressed in class were also interesting. These were the fun parts.
The lectures were fun and engaging
Lectures with Prof. Paolo Privitera are great, but if you have no prior experience with physics, their pace might be overwhelming. He's great at explaining things clearly without being demeaning (like some core science instructors are). He's funny and has great stories to tell about his life finding dark matter. I like the emphasis in lectures on papers and experiments important to the development of the field. The novel–sized textbook"The Oder of Time" explains the colossal nature of relativity, entropy, and other topics basically without using any equations. The creative final project option allows you to apply any concept learned in class to an artistic practice. Alternatively, you can write a paper. The quizzes are multiple choice, there is homework, and you have to submit lab reports.
Lectures were very helpful
I'm not entirely sure that the labs were really relevant, but they were super cool. I liked being able to calculate the speed of light or what particles are in it.
It taught me a lot of physics ideas and showed me how they connect with each other
The lectures didn't alway seem to clearly connect with the p–sets and lab assignments; however, the connect came full circle in the end and the purpose of the lectures became more apparent. If you feel overwhelmed with this course at the start of the quarter, attend TA office hours and give it some time – you'll be fine!
Professor Paolo is amazing in explaining the different topics in this course.
Loved my TA
The Lectures were fun and labs were interesting and not too long
I did not learn in this course. The book which we were barely responsible for reading was interesting though.
the homeworks
The lectures were somewhat helpful for the homework and midterms. The labs would also sometimes relate to the homework.
– Labs were the most hands–on applications of the course material; we were able to apply certain topics from lectures to the experiments we conducted in lab, specifically thngs like dimensional analysis, error propagation, etc.
Labs were really helpful and made me think a lot about the course content. Homeworks were challenging but not overwhelming.
I felt that the labs, while stressful, were great hands–on additions to help us understand the applications of the complex concepts we studied. I also appreciated how lectures always connected back to each other so the class felt concrete and flowing nicely.
The things that contributed most were the office hours, the labs, and the lecture slides. The contribution of office hours is slightly self–explanatory: I went to a TA with questions and had them answered, and with the TA I went to for office hours, he was really good at explaining the reasoning behind each problem or rule. The labs were super informative and helpful because they gave me hands–on experience and the chance to discover these new things myself. Finally, the lecture slides, while not super organized, were well–made enough that I could get everything I needed for a test from going through them and making a study guide. The lectures were the least helpful part of my learning. The professor was clearly passionate about his work, but that's sort of the problem; he wasn't great at explaining a lot of things in engaging ways, and the parts of his lectures that were easiest to follow were about the laboratory he works with, which was only tangentially related to the course material.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.14	4.00	3.92%	3.92%	5.88%	47.06%	39.22%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.06	4.00	3.92%	5.88%	9.80%	41.18%	39.22%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.14	4.00	1.96%	3.92%	11.76%	43.14%	39.22%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.71	4.00	3.92%	11.76%	23.53%	31.37%	29.41%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.90	4.00	1.96%	9.80%	13.73%	45.10%	29.41%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.43	5.00	1.96%	1.96%	3.92%	35.29%	56.86%
I felt respected in this class.	4.43	5.00	1.96%	1.96%	3.92%	35.29%	56.86%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.12	4.00	1.96%	5.88%	15.69%	31.37%	45.10%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
None.
Paolo is a great and enthusiastic professor
a lot of stuff from the tests isn't on the slides, so go to lectures.
Highly recommended for anyone interested in space.
You're gonna have a hard time if you don't have a solid understanding of physics and a bit of chem going in but the class is doable if you put the work in.
In this class, we cover A LOT of material but I do think you understand it well. The class is also weighted in a favorable manner with labs, HW, and projects taking up more of the grade than quizzes.
I should have known from the broad title of "Matter, Energy, Space, and Time" that this would be a wildly unfocused class, and that it was. It presents itself as an introductory course to the basics of astrophysics and understanding the mysterious forces of the universe, but it really just gives you tiny bites of basic scientific knowledge (some of which is hardly related to any of the four "tenets" of the course) that are not enough to even get a good understanding of ANY of the topics of the course. So much information was thrown at us that I feel that I barely learned anything at all.
We played with lasers in the labs a lot and the midterm and final quiz stakes were low
The course might seem intimadating at first but you're not expected to do all of the intense calculations that you will see.
Take it
It's a joke
It is a very interesting course but extremely fast–paced. In the end, it is not necessary to understand all the material covered in class because it simply is too much that it cannot all be tested, which made the course easier.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.16%	91.84%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.58%	85.42%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Real life examples
our TA Mackenzie Ferrari was incredibly good at explaining things/concepts, and also willing to explain those things at any point. very helpful
I believe the professors ability to involve us in each lecture. He would always have something hands on to show us.

Comments
Instructor's detailed explanations to specific astronomical concepts contributed most to my learning.
His clear explanation of complex physical concepts
He was very engaging. He included demonstations in almost all of his lectures to keep the class focused and entertained.
hes super passionate and makes the content fun. one time he brought a microwave to class.
The instructor created experiments during the course to keep the class engaged and demonstrate the concepts that he was teaching.
He was very passionate about the topic.
The instructor's clear articulation helped most with my learning. He took enough time to explain concepts in a way that would help everyone understand it.
The lectures were very interesting and helped increase me interest in the subject. After class discussion and questions were also very interesting and encouraging for me own research and discovery,
Practice problems
Brilliant way to structure the lectures and a new lens on all the ideas and information. I couldn't wait for each lecture!
Going into this with a very limited understanding of physics, I really like how Pritzvera provided an overview to many concepts relating to each of matter, energy, space, and time. His enthusiasm and interest in the class is contagious and the way he explains certain phenomena makes it more interesting.
He tries to make things easy to understand. Really a great person and teacher. Reach out if you need help.
Lectures
Good labs
He was cool, definitely cared about the topics and seemed like a nice enough professor.
Professor Privitera is very charismatic and engaging, which helped a little (but not a lot) in focusing on the lectures.
His attitude and personality is really fun and when he brings personal examples from his work or demonstrated an experiment to the class, he made it easy to focus.
I think the instructor gets to some points of our interesting so that the class doesn't get very dry.
Paolo did a great job synthesizing complex ideas
Lectures were very engaging and clear
Professor Privitera was clearly interested in the course content, and I think he made class stimulating. Sometimes I couldn't fully understand how much we jumped around in every class, but I came away with a much better understanding of space. He inspired me to want to do more with Astrophysics—a topic I didn't even know I was interested in.
Whenever the professor demonstrated an experiment in class
Even if the lectures seem disjointed from the p–sets and labs, pay attention to the details because they will be useful on the quizzes! There are many interesting facts the professor includes in his lectures/slides, which are worthwhile understanding just for your own sake, too! The lectures build on each other, so be mindful of that.
Doing experiments in class and telling stories from the Professor's background while in Italy or working at CERN helped me learn a lot.
His accent
Storytelling
He's a very nice guy. I feel sorry for him having to teach this course.
lecture slides on canvas
Assigned readings were very informative
He was very passionate about the subject.
– I think the live demonstrations/participatory examples of certain physical phenomena like entropy were the most engaging parts of the class during the lecture.
The professor was incredibly kind and passionate, and loved sharing his work.
I loved Paolo's live demonstrations of everything from conservation of angular momentum to standing waves to ideal gas law! It made the class engaging and kept me out of a lull from the bombardment of information during each lecture.
I think the professor is an incredibly smart man, who knows his material really well. I think also that his slides were well–made, and relatively easy to reference back while studying for exams.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I believe specific material could be provided for our quizzes.
Maybe the instructor could draw more diagrams and demonstrate more calculations on the black board, always listen the lecture powerpoint before class so we can catch up notes in class.
N/A
Nothing.
nothing super chill.
He could have done more experiments in the beginning of the quarter.
I know it's a habit, but his thick Italian accent can be difficult to understand at times. Most critically, he was not the best at explaining topics and often veered off to less–relevant topics, which while seeming to be irrelevant trivia, turned out to sometimes come out in exams. It was difficult to differentiate between what was relevant to the course and what wasn't, and the slides did not help clarify this at all. A syllabus on topics that students should be aware of would be very usefull, as what we received was quite vague. The slides really need more work and needs to include more details and explanations to topics. I often would end up googling on my own to find out solutions to answers/ explanation for concepts for hours.
It would be nice if the homework assignments were more closely tied to the topics in lecture since I often had to learn new concepts or equations myself in order to complete them.
A more detailed syllabus on what is required of us understanding wide would be very helpful.
Use lecture time to do practice problems/ model concepts that are asked about in the homework.
Nothing!
I think that the presentations could be more organized with bullet points and highlighting the important points. Sometimes I felt like the presentations were all over the place and hard to study from.
Professor could present more demonstrations to help students engage with the material and understand why the topics mattered.
Make the midterms clearer on content covered
Not sure
More advanced I get that it is meant to be a core class but it was quite simple.
Shave off unnecessary material from lectures, focus the curriculum more, and model the course for people who want a basic understanding of the subject matter. Don't include extremely obscure formulas that we won't use that will only make approaching the homework or studying for the quizzes intimidating.
He could explain what the purpose of teaching what is and organize his slides better. The order of what we learned felt arbitrary and also he can spend more time explaining difficult concepts.
We've mentioned that final tests made people stressful, but I felt that this assignment made me so as well. I don't know about other people though.
Sometimes we went into excruciating detail about clocks and other things–I wasn't sure if that was necessary
Not much, maybe answer to more questions
Highlight what concepts are important during class lectures
The lectures are not always directly related to the p–sets/lab assignments, which can be confusing.
Nothing.
Connect lecture to lab more
Perhaps talk more about the physics and astrophysics aspects conceptually more. At times the course felt too much like a intro stat and math class.
everything was fine
The lectures were sometimes a little tedious and the tone monotonous, which made it hard to follow. The slides were also hard to review after class because some were just images or key words with no explanation.
Although the homework assignments definitely had connections to content from lectures, I do feel like a specific outline of what information would be covered during each lecture might have been helpful. While I also understand the purpose of Professor Privitera not using a dedicated textbook for main class content (besides The Order of Time for homework assignments), it would have been helpful to have some dedicated texts/resources for understanding how to use certain formulas or mathematical operations like error propagation, dimensional analysis, etc.
Providing more structured slideshows with clearer notes to be able to review material. Also, the amount of material was gargantuan, making quizzes and other assignments overwhelming. It felt like there was no time to breathe or understand/internalize a concept before we moved on to the next one.

Comments
Despite his expertise, I don't think he was very good at either explaining concepts or keeping the class engaged. Maybe this is just a me thing, but I had a lot of trouble staying focused during lectures, despite how interesting I found the topics, and how much I wanted to pay attention, and I noticed other people having similar issues. Maybe try to go a little faster, and be a little more concise?
The slides presented in lecture could have been more in–depth/better organised—they were mostly pictures combined with the occasional formula.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.94	4.00	2.04%	12.24%	12.24%	36.73%	36.73%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.96	4.00	4.08%	6.12%	18.37%	32.65%	38.78%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.82	4.00	4.08%	4.08%	10.20%	30.61%	18.37%	32.65%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.26	4.00	2.00%	2.00%	8.00%	44.00%	44.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.26	4.00	2.00%	2.00%	4.00%	52.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.10	4.00	2.00%	6.00%	14.00%	36.00%	42.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.26	4.00	2.00%	0.00%	12.00%	32.00%	40.00%	14.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.22	4.00	2.00%	2.00%	16.00%	32.00%	48.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.56	5.00	2.00%	0.00%	2.00%	32.00%	64.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.24	4.00	2.00%	2.00%	14.00%	34.00%	48.00%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Aidan Simpson
MacKenzie Ferrari
Tanisha Jhaveri helped us on each lab and provided very valuable information that allowed us to complete them correctly. She could have possibly provided more feedback on homework's and told me what needed to be corrected.
Daisy Bissonette. Her logical and detailed explanations contributed most to my learning. The TA could put more comments on the homework and final project proposal to help me learn more about the aspects that I could improve more on.
Aidan Simpson
Aiden was very helpful with understanding the purpose of the labs and formulating an appropriate lab report
McKenzie Ferrari
idr the girls name. but she was chill and nice. super smart and helpful.
Tanisha Jhaveri was a great lab TA, she made sure that students understood what they were doing and why, as well as what the results meant.
Aidan Simpson is amazing. He did a great job organising and explaining labs and was very approachable. 10/10.
Aidan was incredible! He was always there to help, organized the labs very clearly, and brought such a warm and enthusiastic attitude to every encounter! His passion for science is contagious and his knowledge is truly impressive!
Ferarri!!!!
Aidan was the TA for my lab section, and he did a good job of explaining the labs and helping everyone complete them properly.
Suyash Kumar was very helpful in his explanation of the concept involved in the practicals and explaining why the practicals result in the results that they do. He could potentially be more explicit with what is required in the lab reports.

Comments
Thank you, Mckenzie, for being so on–top of everything, kind, and thoughtful!
Daisy bisonette. She was the best!
Daisy Bissonette; she was so great and helpful. She graded everything in a timely manner, was very attentive during lab and would always be willing and able to help, and was easy to reach for any questions about the course; Overall, a really great TA!
Aidan
Saba Etezad Razavi
McKenzie was an amazing TA, super helpful
Mckenzie Ferrari
Saba, she was readily available and eager to help, and did a good job of boiling down complicated concepts to their most basic parts. A highlight of the class.
Aidan Simpson; great guy and very helpful with concepts and actual lab work. He was very patient and helpful.
Daisy Bissonette
Aidan Simpson
Aidan Simpson
Suyash Kumar
Suyash Kumar
Suyash Kumar
Mckenzie Ferrari
Tanisha Jhaveri
Chris Werth
Saba Azad–Estavi
Tanisha Jhaveri was great in explaining the concepts important to the lab as well as being reliable through email answer clarifying questions. She was great and wished that she offered more office hours
Aidan Simpson
Mackenzie Ferarri
Mckenzie Ferrari. She was very nice, approachable, and extremely helpful. She would always answer all of my questions, even hours before a midterm, and was very understanding of any personal situations.
Suyash Kumar Suyash was more than willing to reach out and offer support with certain things I may not have understood clearly; during lab, he also helped to simplify things for a better understanding and was able to answer questions we had about certain steps for each lab.
Aidan Simpson was very helpful as a lab TA.
Daisy Bissonette is my TA. I appreciated how she was always so dedicated during lab. I wasn't able to go to her office hours, since I had a conflict, but I'm sure that she brought the same capable, positive energy to that as she did to the lab.
Suyash
Daisy Bissonette The TA was wonderful. Always ready to answer questions during Lab, with clear explanations for concepts and expectations on the assignments. She was consistently available for office hours, and went above and beyond to help out students.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.54	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	2.22%	28.89%	57.78%	8.89%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.53	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	2.22%	33.33%	62.22%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.47	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	2.22%	40.00%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.56	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	0.00%	35.56%	62.22%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.64	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	2.22%	22.22%	73.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.68	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	2.22%	17.78%	75.56%	2.22%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.60	5.00	2.22%	0.00%	0.00%	31.11%	66.67%	0.00%

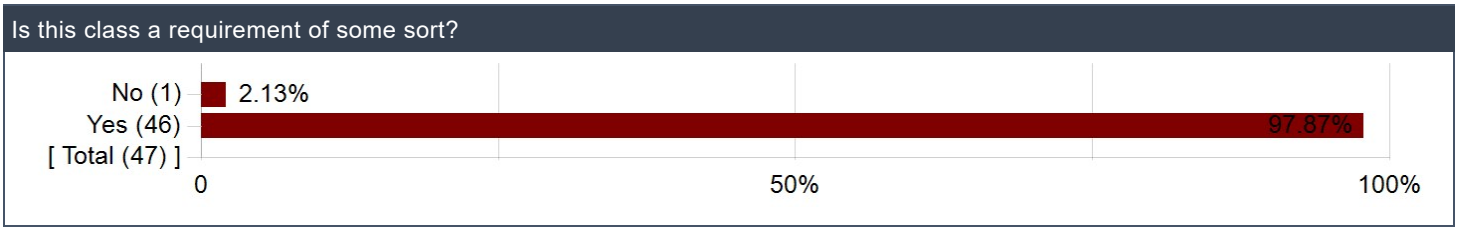
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	4.33	5.00	2.38%	0.00%	16.67%	23.81%	57.14%	0.00%
Field Trips	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	97.44%
Library Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.13%	94.87%
Review Sessions	4.04	5.00	0.00%	9.76%	7.32%	9.76%	29.27%	43.90%
Writing Seminars	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	97.44%

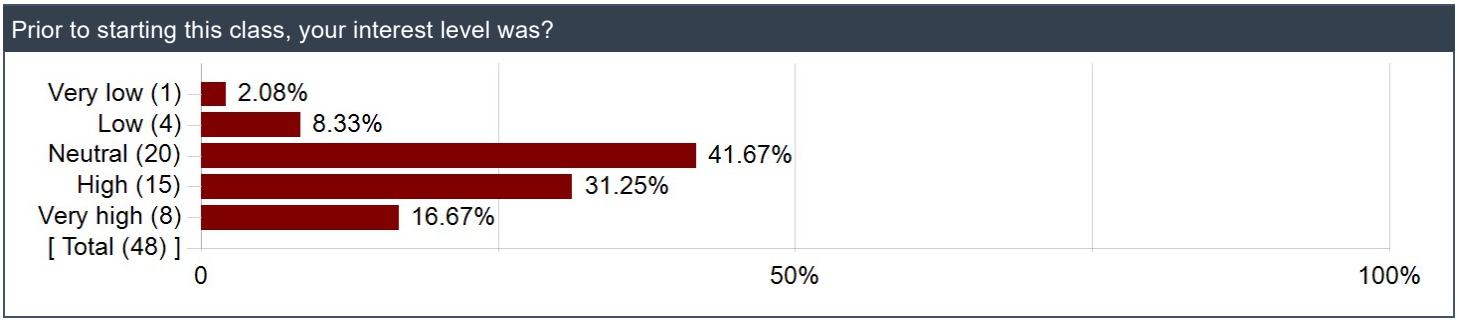
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A
TA office hours were very helpful.
The review sessions could have been more helpful for the course. There was no review session before the second exam and it could have helped students understand the main points of the class. Sometimes, Pritzvera would take the basics and make it very complicated and there is a wide range of topics. Review sessions could have provided more help before exams.

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

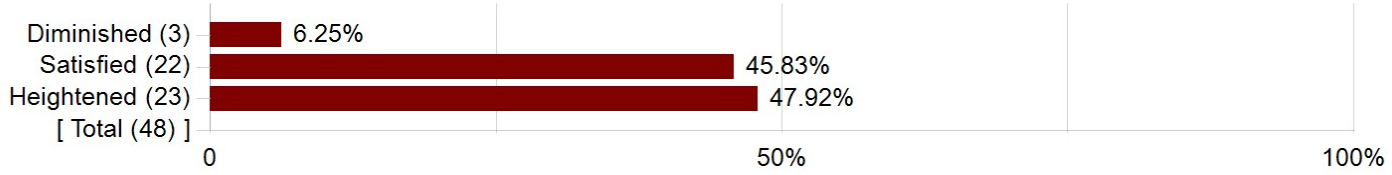


Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

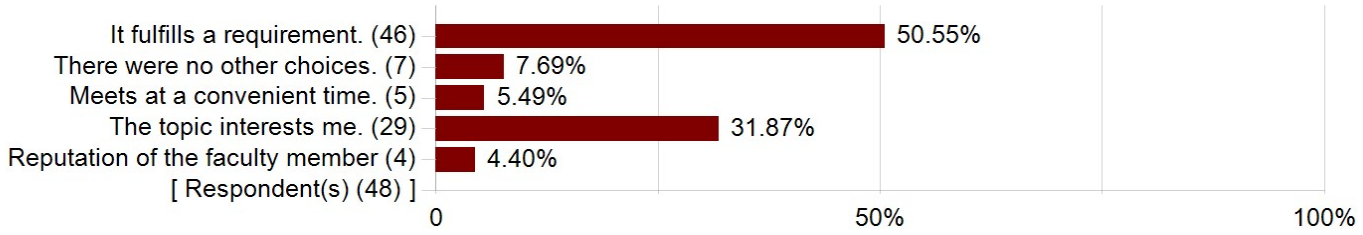


Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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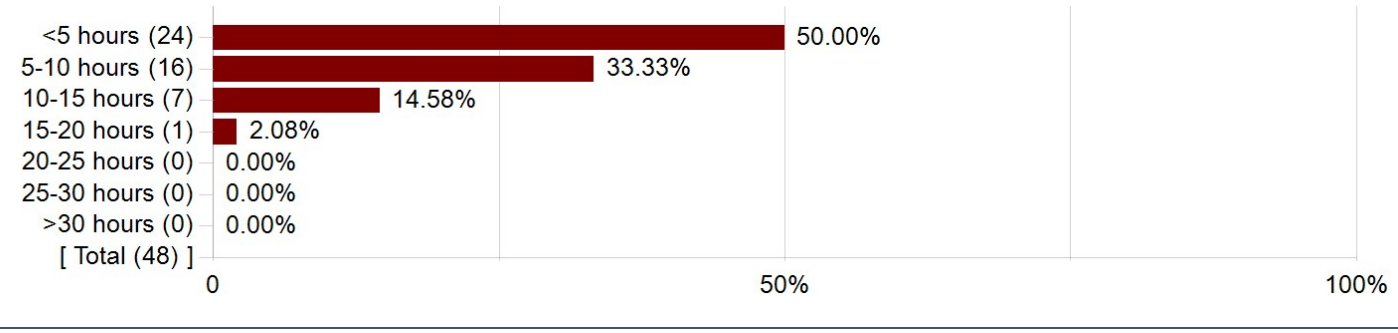

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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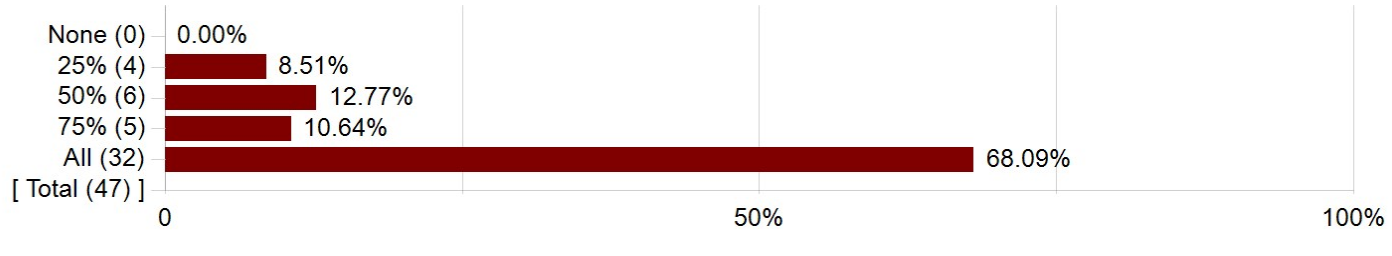

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Appropriate

Comments
Relative to my background and experience, the course has a moderate level of difficulty and I learned lots of astronomical things that broadened my worldview.
intellectually challening, but not too time consuming
super easy. don't really need prior experience. most of the tests are also just testing facts, very little physics or math outside of hw.
Not an especially hard class; very doable when completing assignments and looking over lecture slides
Quite difficult, and a background experience in physics would be strongly recommended. The course and hw were difficult, but not intrinsically; rather, having to search up everything on your own was what made it hard.
100% doable for anyone. Even those without any prior physics knowledge.
I found the course more difficult than I expected as someone with little background in science/physics.
The difficulty was manageable though some of the concepts where rather difficult to grasp and are counterintuitive.
As a first–year who hasn't taken physics since freshman year of high school and knows very little about astrology, the class was difficult and I had to put a lot of work in outside of class to comprehend the lectures, homework, and labs. With that being said, there are resources to help you and overall the class is passable if you put the work in.
I think I was one of the only people who had taken 131 and 132 before this class. Professor Privitera took an entirely different (and fascinating!) angle on all those topics and then introduced a whole set of new concepts and ideas that inspired me to go learn more. It was certainly not mathematically challenging like the 130s but a great intellectual challenge that I really enjoyed!
I think this class is mixed difficulty. The concepts are hard but the assignments, labs, and exams only test you on the basics. The HW implores you to expand on the basics learned in class, but they are doable (sometimes challenging) and help you understand the main topics.
Not too hard, but some people found it very challenging. Helps to have mild background in physics.
Adequate
Simple enough I guess
I have no astronomy/physics background and struggled quite a bit, not because the material was necessary that difficult but just because the course was very muddled and confused and I really just did not know what to do most of the time.
homeworks are pretty hard not gna lie but the quizzes aren't bad and the final project is fun
Moderate
It wasn't difficult (having taken physics throughout high school). Still I enjoyed the class and learned a good deal.
Some concepts were difficult but nothing impossible
Not hard but very interesting! I did take AP Physics, so that really helped.
Although the course is challenging, what is more important is that you remain motivated, completing p–sets/labs to the best of your ability. Don't be afraid if you aren't comfortable with math – the TA's are there to help and a lot of this is new content for everyone! You won't have to use calculus.
The course is the appropriate amount of challenging. Don't be intimidated by it.
Quite Easy
I mean, intellectually it's very easy. We don't know how it will be curved, but I would be shocked if it everyone did not receive A/A–s
introductory
Seemed very difficult at first but was not too hard in terms of tests. Homework may be a bit challenging even with previous Physics experience.
The material is somewhat challenging, especially for nonscience majors like me, but it is not necessary to know everything. A not–so–thorough study session before the midterms was enough to do well. I would say overall it was pretty manageable, considering that I'm not particularly skilled or interested in physics.
I was expecting the class to be a bit easier than the General Physics courses, but it did feel a bit less streamlined than I was expecting, and that made things a bit difficult for me; that said, as with many other classes, so long as you show up to class as often as possible, attend labs, and attend office hours for any homework/lab questions you have, you'll be fine.
The course is very approachable with lots of opportunities to learn and improve, low stakes.
I found the class difficult as someone with minimal prior experience with learning physics. Furthermore, I found some concepts and formulae that would have been useful to understand the foundations of the material to not be present in the course at all, which made me worried that I got things confused.
It was a pretty run–of–the–mill physics course, and I actually expected it to be harder. However, I was still challenged a lot, so it was definitely not easy.
Minimal quantitative work. Quizzes were short and mostly conceptual. We covered a wide range of concepts in a rudimentary

Comments
manner. Very suitable for people with no physics background, and probably not challenging enough for those with background.