



# ASTR 12620 1, PHSC 12620 1 - The Big Bang - Instructor(s) - John Carlstrom

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **47**

Number of Responses: **20**

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## Report Comments

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

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
CMB, hubble constant, expansion of the universe, dark energy etc...
This was an awesome course that covered a variety of interesting topics at a palatable level of theory and quantitative analysis for someone who is not particularly STEM-inclined. I loved the sections on quantum mechanics, the possibility of time travel, and models of the origins of the universe.
Multiverse, CMB, cosmological principle/model
The most important things I learned in this course are the many different models that potentially explain the past and future of our universe
Different theories of the Big Bang; our universe's current state and eventual fate; astronomy's relationship to relativity and quantum physics.
I learned how the universe is and the basics of everything there is.
Overall development of what we know about the development and structure of the universe and how we know it. It covered many fascinating topics like inflation.
1) Even what we know about the universe now can be fundamentally changed by tomorrow, especially with inflation theory. 2) Even assumptions that may be incorrect can be built upon to further scientific knowledge
A lot about the universe, the fate of the universe, the physics of the universe
I learned about some really interesting theories about the early universe
Knowledge about and appreciation for those at the frontier of expanding the horizon of humanity
The evolution of Big Bang and many conflicting theories about the fate of our universe
I got a good background on cosmology topics and it was really appealing to learn about. A good course to kind of dip your toes in the water and learn a bit about cosmology.
The history and evolution of the universe
Big Bang occurred

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

Comments
lectures were very insightful and labs also were very relevant and interesting and informative
The labs challenged me, but it was satisfying to complete them, and they helped me to better understand the concepts from class. Lectures were informative and fairly hands–on, with plenty of examples and practice problems. The problem sets weren't too bad.
The lectures were super helpful in understanding the content, and doing well on the homework, labs, and final.
Lectures were quite interesting, and homework would go over some of the same topics.
Amazing lectures. But the psets and labs were a bit of a drag.
John Carlstrom is thebest lecturer I've had at this school. The class is not difficult, and psets were not too demanding. The final poster encourages solid knowledge of a specified field, but overall the lectures are awesome if you want to attend.
The lectures and slides were very useful for understanding the textbook in a more concise matter, which I could then apply to the homework. The lab section sometimes provided supplemental material that would assist with the homework and lectures. Finally, the final poster was an opportunity to discover some intricate features of potential time travel.
labs, lectures, homeworks were all very helpful for my learning
Lectures were fantastic, I wish they weren't at 9am which is pretty early considering an early lab too. Lectures were the best part
Lectures introduced concepts, which were tested in assignment and placed in practical setting in the lab
Lecture and labs
The labs were pretty much pointless. The lectures all but like 10 people skipped regularly.
The lectures were very, very interesting, but the teacher has a low and pleasant NPR speaking voice, and college students want to sleep until noon if possible.
The lectures and labs really helped my understanding of the topic, and supported my understanding with data
Labs were really helpful in understanding theoretical concepts at an intuitive level and internalising things we learned in lecture

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	43.75%	43.75%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	29.41%	70.59%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.59	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	29.41%	64.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.41	5.00	0.00%	5.88%	5.88%	29.41%	58.82%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.12	5.00	5.88%	5.88%	11.76%	23.53%	52.94%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.76	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.53%	76.47%
I felt respected in this class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	17.65%	82.35%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Very interesting content. Would recommend.
Professor John Carlstrom is one of the best lecturers I have had in my time at Uchicago and I would recommend his courses to anyone who is even slightly interested.
Amazing course. So interesting
N/A
Despite never going to class, this course was a fun experience and Professor Carlstrom made it as engaging as possible.
Professor Calstrom is fantastic and so genuine and kind, his lectures are worth seeing and he is simply the best
This is a blow-off course, but you can get a lot out of it if you put some time and effort in.

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.76%	88.24%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

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

Comments
The lectures, professor was awesome. Lectures were interesting and fun
The lectures were really amazing, some of the most interesting I've had so far as a first year at the University. His knowledge was evident when answering class questions.
The topics discussed in lectures were very interesting to hear.
Lectures
His lectures and personal involvement with the topics (hearing about his reasearch)
The professor's availability after class to discuss was very helpful for understanding confusing course material and questions on the homework.
Lectures
Lectures and carefully answering questions
He's a pretty pleasant lecturer.
Lectures itself with detailed illustrations
Professor Carlstrom divided up the lectures in a way that made a lot of sense.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing
N/A
IF you did less review. A lot of the time you would do review for the first 30 minutes. Also, for the guest lecturer, he would ask too many questions and it would slow down the class and make people lose interest.
The stuff at the beginning (the older ideas about the universe) are cool, but I would've liked to spend more time on the most modern stuff and go deeper into it.
N/A
Some of the math was confusing and wasn't gone over that in depth
I would include some part of class that requires attendance to give students more of a reason to show up at 9:30. Otherwise, everything was great.
Nothing! Morning class is rough.
Find ways to mandate discussion of the reading materials in class.
Nothing in particular
I liked when lectures were interactive. More of that.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	71.43%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.81	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	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
Tanisha
Tanisha did an excellent job of running our labs. She was very helpful whenever I got stuck on an equation, concept, or graph.
Tanisha
Saba Etezad–Razavi. She was always available for help and made the class so much easier.
Tanisha Jhaveri
Tanisha Jhaveri; she was helpful during lab sections and willing to guide me on certain steps of the lab or to verify what I should be doing. I have no current ideas for modification.
Saba Etezad Razavi. She was very cool and engaging and obviously very passionate about astrophysics. This was apparent in the way she was able to help us and facilitate the labs.
Saba
Saba
Saba Etezad Razavi
Tanisha Jhaveri was my lab TA. She did a couple of lectures, it was her first time I think at this. She was ok. The labs were braindead though, so she didn't have to do much.
Tanisha was very helpful throughout the labs, especially regarding explaining the procedures and the expectations.
Saba was great!
Tanesha Jhaveri

### The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%

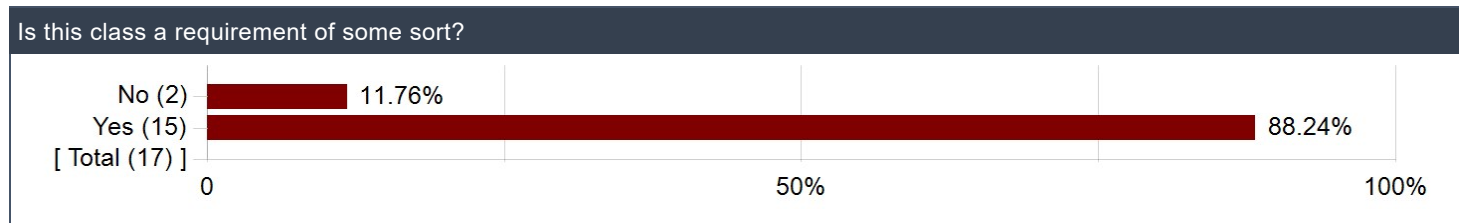
### How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	4.36	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Review Sessions	3.00	3.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%
Writing Seminars	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%

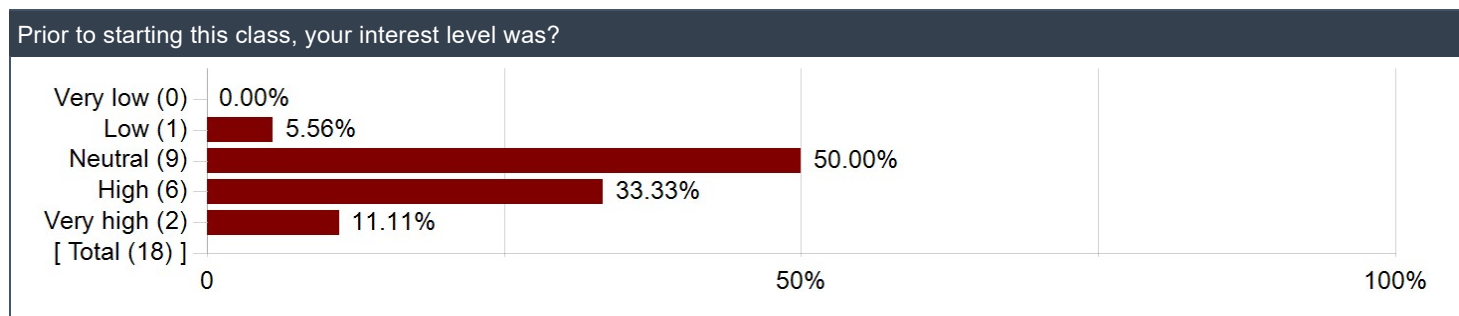
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A
The labs felt pretty pointless. Following directions for two hours without much direction and interest from anyone, felt like data entry.

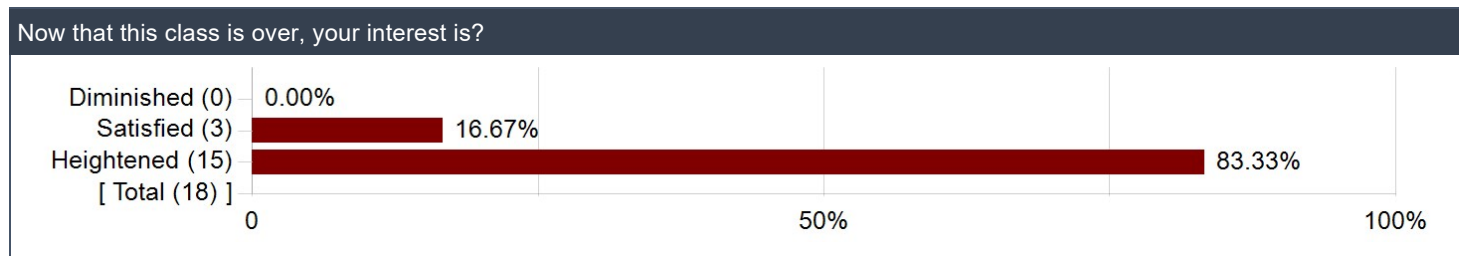
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



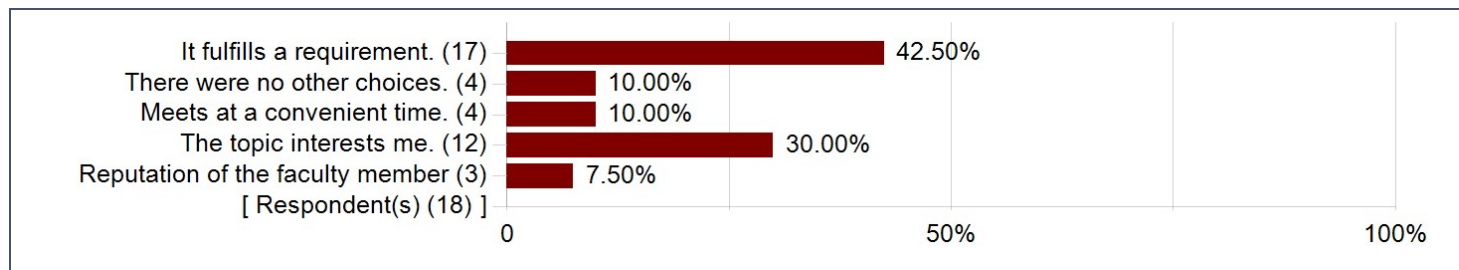
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



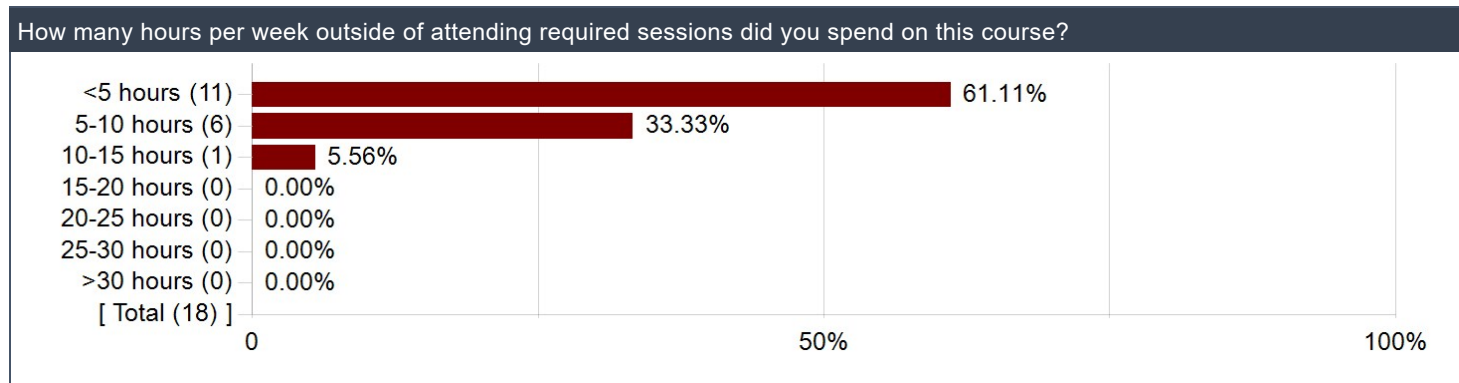
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



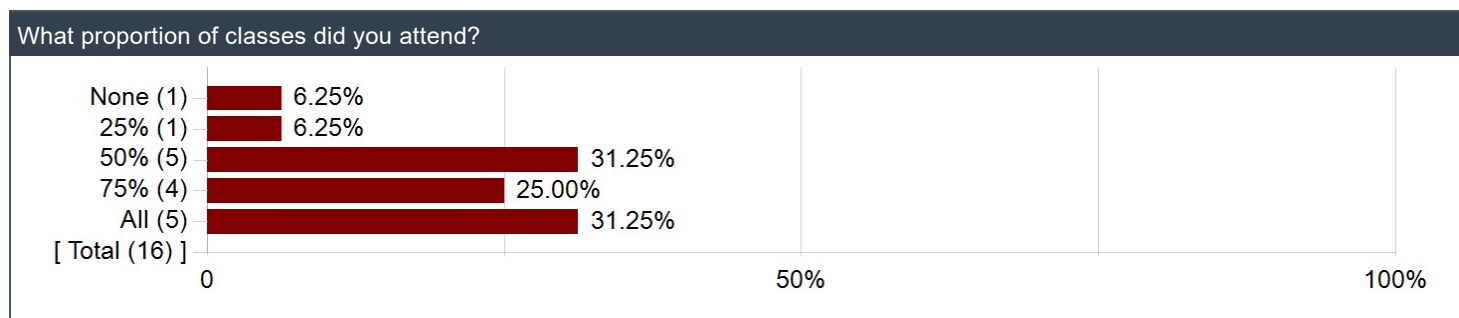
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
No previous experience in astornomy or cosmology and did well. No previoous experience needed
With high school physics in my back pocket, the quantitative side of the class was easy enough. The concepts would be challenging for most people, but you can get through them by paying attention to the lectures.
Im a physics major, but it was extremely easy and would be for almost anyone.
I'm a physics major taking this out of interest. It was easy and very interesting. Wonderful experience.
I had taken a physical sciences course discussing space the quarter before, so I was fairly familiar with overall topics. Still, the homework would sometimes be challenging and I would often ask for help to verify my work.
Easy if you complete all the assignments and put any effort into the course
doable!
This is a complete blow-off course. It's super interesting, the teacher is great, the labs are easy, the work is simple.
Doable.