

**Duquesne University**  
Department of Physics

**UCOR 125-01 CORE ASTRONOMY**

Term: Fall 2016

Wolfe Lecture Hall: Bayer Learning Center

M W F 4:00-4:50 PM

**Instructor:** Dr. Patrick Cooper

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**Office:** 322 Fischer Hall

**Office Hours:** W 2:30-3:30 PM

**Course Description:** Introduction to methods of astronomical observation, history of astronomy, the solar system and the question of life in the universe, with limited context-building discussion of stars and galaxies. Focus may alternate between planetary geology and astrophysics. Delivery is straightforwardly descriptive without complex mathematics. No science or mathematics background presumed. Does not meet requirements of physics or astronomy programs. 3 credits. Lecture, Core Science.

**Objectives:** The objective of this class is to familiarize the student with the methods and objectives of science. Students will learn how the scientific process is used to study and explain the natural mechanisms that are active in our Solar System. There will be an emphasis on exploring relevant concepts via classroom discussions. Students are encouraged to be active in this environment and to participate through questions and open-mindedness regarding their peers' questions.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this class, students will be able to articulate the scientific principles that govern our Solar System and describe the properties of its astronomical bodies.

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Text:** "Astronomy Today" 8th edition by Chaisson and McMillan (Pearson / Addison Wesley,). There are four options

1. Buy only volume 1 (paperback) with Modified Mastering  
(ISBN 9780134544243)
2. Buy the loose-leaf version of the whole book with Modified Mastering  
(ISBN 9780133882391)

3. Buy the full textbook in print with Modified Mastering (ISBN 9780321975713)
4. Buy only Modified Mastering

E-text and MasteringAstronomy access card can be purchased at:

**<http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/astronomy-today-plus-masteringastronomy-with-etext-9780321897619>**

**Blackboard Site:** This course will feature a Blackboard site where the relevant course information and assignments will be posted. Students will be notified when an assignment is posted, but they are responsible for accessing and completing this material on their own.

**MasteringAstronomy:** There will be weekly assignments due, every Tuesday night at midnight (~90 min/week) using MasteringAstronomy. To register for the course

1. Go to **[www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com](http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com)**
2. Under Register, select **Student**
3. Confirm you have the information needed, then select **OK! Register now.**
4. Enter the course ID: cooper08295, and **Continue.**
5. Enter your existing Pearson account **username** and **password** to **Sign In.**
6. Select an access option (Enter access code that came with your textbook or was purchased separately from the bookstore or buy access using a credit card or PayPal account.
7. From the You're Done! page, select **Go To My Courses.**
8. On the My Courses page, select course name UCOR 125 to start your work.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Students in the Bayer School or students taking classes in the Bayer School are responsible for maintaining academic integrity with respect to class assignments, examinations, and any other requirements related to their course of study. Violations of academic integrity include instances of cheating, plagiarism, deceit in academic matters, misuse of documents, and assistance in any such instances. Violations of academic integrity are subject to academic sanctions. Please consult the text of the BSNE document on academic integrity, which is available at: **<http://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/natural-and-environmental-sciences/academic-integrity-policy>**

**Students with Disabilities:** Duquesne University is committed to providing all students with equal access to learning. In order to receive accommodations in their courses, students who have a disability of any kind must register with the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (412-396-6657). Once a disability is officially documented, the office of Special Student Services will meet you to determine what accommodations are necessary. With your permission, your instructors will receive letters outlining the reasonable accommodations they are required to take.

Once I have received this letter, you and I should meet to coordinate the way these accommodations will be implemented in this course. For more information, go to <http://www.duq.edu/special-students>.

### **Grading:**

**30%** - 3 Assignments (10% each)

**40%** - 3 Midterms (20% each; the lowest midterm exam will be dropped)

**20%** - Comprehensive Final Exam - Mandatory - 11am-1pm Dec 12th in Wolfe

**5%** - MasteringAstronomy

**5%** - Participation (In-class Quizzes and Discussions)

### **Course Grades:**

<b>A</b>	<b>94-100</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-93</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70-76</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>&lt;60</b>

**Exams:** The three midterm exams will cover only the lecture material assigned prior to the scheduled exam date. The lowest of these three midterm exam grades will be dropped. The final exam will include at least ~50% cumulative questions taken from the previous materials. The format for all exams will include multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due at or prior to the start of class on the due date. Late assignments will lose a full letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments received more than 3 days late will not receive any credit. Every day of the week (including Saturdays and Sundays) will be counted towards the total number of days that the assignment is considered late.

**Attendance:** Some material discussed in class may not be available on Blackboard. Various opportunities (e.g. in-class assignments, quizzes, and discussions) to earn credit for this class will occur during class sessions, so attendance and active participation are important components of this class. Make up assignments will be allowed only in instances of medical or family emergencies and may include class presentations or written assignments. Extra credit may be given for in-class only assignments.

**Statement on Classroom Recording:** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

### Class Schedule:

Date	Lecture	Chapter
8/22 (M)	Course Overview + Foundations of Astronomy	1
8/24 (W)	Foundations of Astronomy	1
8/26 (F)	Copernican Revolution	2
8/29 (M)	Kepler's Laws	2
8/31 (W)	Newton's Laws	2
9/2 (F)	Radiation	3
<b>9/5 (M)</b>	<b>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY</b>	
9/7 (W)	Spectroscopy and Remote Sensing <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	4
9/9 (F)	Spectroscopy and Remote Sensing	4
9/12 (M)	Looking to the Stars: Telescopes	5
9/14 (W)	Looking to the Stars: Telescopes	5
9/16 (F)	Telescopes and Exam 1 review	5
9/19 (M)	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
9/21 (W)	Earth and its Atmosphere	7
9/23 (F)	Earth and its Atmosphere	7
9/26 (M)	Earth, its Atmosphere + Our Moon	7 + 8
9/28 (W)	Our Moon	8

Date	Lecture	Chapter
9/30 (F)	<i>Video + Class Discussion: 'Gravity'</i>	
10/3 (M)	Mercury + Venus	8 + 9
10/5 (W)	Mercury + Venus <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>	8 + 9
10/7 (F)	Mars	10
10/10 (M)	Mars Research	10
10/12 (W)	Mars Research: Curiosity Rover	10
10/14 (F)	Mars Recap + Exam Review	10
10/17 (M)	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
10/19 (W)	Jupiter	11
10/21 (F)	Jupiter + Jupiter's Moons	11
10/24 (M)	Jupiter + Saturn	11 + 12
10/26 (W)	Saturn	12
10/28 (F)	<i>Saturn - Exploring Saturn's Rings</i>	12
10/31 (M)	Saturn's Moons - <i>Titan</i>	12
11/2 (W)	Uranus + Neptune	13
11/4 (F)	The Moons of Uranus + Neptune <b>Assignment 3 Due</b>	13
11/7 (M)	Pluto, Comets, and Beyond	14
11/9 (W)	Meteoroids, Asteroids and the Kuiper Belt	14
11/11 (F)	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
11/14 (M)	Solar System Foundation	6
11/16 (W)	The Sun	16
11/18 (F)	The Sun	16
11/21 (M)	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
11/23 (W)	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
11/25 (F)	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
11/28 (M)	<i>Video + Class Discussion: 'The Cosmos'</i>	15

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
11/30 (W)	Beyond Our Solar System	15
12/2 (F)	Exoplanets, Life on other Planets	
12/5 (M)	Final Exam Review	
12/12 (M)	<b>Final Exam: 11am-1pm @Wolfe</b>	