

AST 1033: Exploration of the Solar System
Course Syllabus for Spring 2003, T Th 7:00-8:15 pm

Instructor: Dr. Wayne Keith (Southwest Research Institute, 522-3868, waynek@swri.edu)
Office Hours: T Th 6-7 pm, or by appointment, SB 4.03.18A, 458-6231
Text: *The New Solar System (4th)*, by Beatty, Petersen, and Chaikin

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 14/16	Ch.1, 2	Exploring the Solar System / Origin of the Solar System
Jan. 21/23	Ch. 3, 4	The Sun / Planetary Magnetospheres
Jan. 28/30	Ch. 5, 6	Cometary Reservoirs / The Role of Collisions
Feb. 4/6	Ch. 7	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-6) / Mercury
Feb. 11/13	Ch. 8, 9	Venus / Planet Earth
Feb. 18/20	Ch. 10, 11	The Moon / Mars
Feb. 25/27	Ch. 12, 13	Surfaces, Interiors and Atmospheres of the Terrestrial Planets
Mar. 4/6	Ch. 14	Exam 2 (Ch. 7-13) / Interiors of the Giant Planets
Mar. 11/13	Ch. 15, 16	Atmospheres of the Giant Planets / Planetary Rings
Mar. 14		Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
Mar. 17 - 21		Spring Break
Mar. 25/27	Ch. 17 - 19	Io and Europa / Ganymede and Callisto
Apr. 1/3	Ch. 20 - 23	Titan, Triton, Pluto and Charon / Midsize Icy & Small Worlds
Apr. 8/10	Ch. 24	Exam 3 (Ch. 14 – 23) / Comets
Apr. 15/17	Ch. 25, 26	Asteroids / Meteorites
Apr. 22/24	Ch. 27, 28	Life in the Solar System / Other Planetary Systems
Apr. 28		Last day to withdraw from all classes
Apr. 29		Exam Review
May. 8		Final Exam (Ch. 1 – 28) at 8:00 – 10:45 pm

GRADING

There will be three exams during the semester that will each count 15% towards your final grade. Exams must be completed during the 75 min class period and are closed book. Make-up exams are given only for excused absences and will generally be more difficult than the regular exam. Pop quizzes will be given at random intervals throughout the semester and may **not** be made up. The average of pop quiz grades will make up 25% of your final grade. A comprehensive final will make up the final 30% of your grade. The final will also be closed book and must be completed during the specified final exam period. Scantron form 883-ES is required for all exams and final. Scantron form 815-E is required for all quizzes.

ATTENDANCE/HOMEWORK

Students are expected to attend all lectures. Excessive absences will negatively affect quiz average and may be subject to additional penalties. Text chapters should be read prior to each lecture in order to allow questions/discussion of the material. Exam and quiz questions will cover both the lectures and the text.