

SP 310 – Introductory Astronomy
Section 6001 – Dr. Chris Morgan
Syllabus - Spring 2009

Week	Day	Reading	Lecture Topic
5 Jan	W	Chapter 1	Introduction to the Universe - Distance Scales
	F	2.1 – 2.2	The Earth and the Sky
12 Jan	M	2.3 – 2.5	Seasons and the Motion of the Moon
	W	Chapter 3	Basic Astrophysics: Gravity and Orbits
	F	4.1 – 4.2	Basic Astrophysics: Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum
19 Jan	M	-	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday: No Classes</i>
	T*	4.3	Basic Astrophysics: The Speed of Light and Special Relativity
	W	4.4 – 4.6	Basic Astrophysics: Spectroscopy, the Doppler Effect and Blackbody Radiation
	F	Chapter 5	Astronomical Telescopes and Instruments
26 Jan	M	Chapter 7	Properties of the Moon and the Terrestrial Planets
	W	Chapter 8	Terrestrial Planet Atmospheres
	F	Chapter 9	The Giant Planets
2 Feb	M	10.1 – 10.3, Chapter 11	Tides, Planetary Rings and Moons
	W	Chapter 12	Asteroids, Comets and Meteorites
	F	-	Test #1
9 Feb	M	13.1 – 13.3	Stars: Distances, Colors (Temperatures) and Sizes
	W	13.4	Stars: Chemical Composition and Masses
	F	13.5	The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram
16 Feb	M	-	<i>Presidents' Day Holiday: No Classes</i>
	W	14.1	The Sun: Our Star
	F	14.2 – 14.3	Nuclear Fusion and Neutrinos
23 Feb	M	14.4	Solar Activity
	W	15.1 – 15.2	The Interstellar Medium
	F	15.3 – 15.4	Star Formation, Brown Dwarfs and Giant Planets
2 Mar	M	16.1 – 16.3	The Life Cycle of Low-Mass Stars
	W	16.4 – 16.6	Low-Mass Stars: End-of-Life Events and Stellar Remnants
	F	17.1 – 17.3	The Life Cycle of Massive Stars
9 Mar	M	17.4 – 17.5	Supernovae, Neutron Stars and Black Holes
	W	17.6	Black Holes, Gravity and Space-Time
	F	-	Test #2
14 – 22 Mar	Spring Break: No Classes		
23 Mar	M	18.1 – 18.3	Galaxies: Historical Introduction and Taxonomy
	W	18.4	Galaxies: Rotation and Dark Matter
	F	18.5	Active Galactic Nuclei and Quasars
30 Mar	M	19.1 – 19.2	The Milky Way: Structure and Rotation
	W	19.3 – 19.4	The Milky Way: Composition and Occupants
	F	20.1	Introduction to Cosmology
6 Apr	M	20.2	Edwin Hubble and the Expanding Universe
	W	20.3 – 20.4	The Beginning, the Big Bang and the Cosmic Microwave Background
	F	20.5 – 20.6	The Accelerating Universe and Dark Energy
13 Apr	M	Chapter 21	The Universe and Large-Scale Structure
	W	-	Test #3
	F	See Class Website	Topics From Modern Astronomical Research
20 Apr	M	See Class Website	Life in the Universe
	W	See Class Website	Scales Revisited: An Enhanced Perspective
	F	-	Exam Review and Makeup
27 Apr	M	-	Exam Review and Makeup

* Tuesday, 20 January is on a Monday class schedule