Astronomy 3010 History of Astronomy
Spring Semester 2024

Meeting Times: TuTh 3:35 – 5:00PM

Meeting Place: Sundquist Science Center B-310

Credit: 3 Credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Spencer L. Buckner

Office: SSC B326 Phone: 221-6241

Email: buckners@apsu.edu

Hours: MWThF 10:00 – 11:30 AM, M – F 1:30 – 3:30PM
or by Appointment

Website: www.apsu.edu/astronomy

Textbook: The Cambridge Concise History of Astronomy
Edited by Michael Hoskin

Course Description:

An examination of the historical development of the science of astronomy. Beginning with the ancient cultures and their religious associations with astronomy through the philosophies of the ancient Greeks and into the renaissance era with Copernicus, Tycho, Kepler, Galileo and Newton. Concludes with the modern era and development of modern theories of astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology.

Grading:

Term Projects…….20%	A…≥90
Class Participation…20%	B…80 – 89
Exams…….60%	C…70 – 79
	D…60 – 69

Attendance:

Attendance will not be taken but with the small class size I will know who is not attending regularly. As round-table discussions of the day's topics will be an important part of the course, failure to attend and participate will be deducted from the Class Participation portion of the grade.

Exams:

There will be three exams worth 20% each with the last exam being given during the final exam period The exams will consist of 15 to 20 multiple-choice questions worth 2 or 3 points each and 3 to 5 essay questions worth 15 points each. The tentative dates for the exams are given below.

Exam 1…Tuesday February 20

Exam 2…Tuesday March 19

Exam 3…Tuesday April 30 @ 3:35PM

Term Projects:

Two term projects of significant length will be required for the course. The topic of the first project will be an enhanced book review and will be due Tuesday February 27. The subject of the second project is to be an individual, event or series of events of historical importance to astronomy or the history of astronomy of a non-western culture. The last project will be due Tuesday April 23, the last day of class. Both projects will require both a written paper and an oral presentation to the class of approximately 10 minutes in length.

Class Participation:

In a class this small it is important that everyone shows up and participates. While attendance will not be taken, it is easy to see who is attending and who isn't. In addition to class attendance, you will be required to help out with the intro astronomy Observing Nights. Your primary duties will be to help set-up and operate the various telescopes at both the Dark Sky nights and the 1st Quarter Nights. A schedule of when those nights occur can be found in the Course Documents module of the Content section in the class D2L.

Disability Policy:

Any student that has a condition that may affect his/her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with me **and** with Disability Services (telephone 221-6230; voice 221-6278; voice tty) to discuss the matter. This discussion should take place **ASAP!**

Academic & Classroom Misconduct:

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. Students must read the "Code of Student Conduct" in the new Student Handbook for an understanding of what will be expected of them within the academic setting.