ASTR 1403.001IN
Stars and Galaxies
Fall 2023

Instructor Information: **Name:** Kirk McVey
Email: kmcvey@com.edu

Student hours and location: I will be live in the course Fridays 1-2pm to answer any questions

Required Textbook/Materials: http://www.openstax.org/details/astronomy-2e
Astronomy 2e from OpenStax, Print ISBN 9781711470573, Digital ISBN 9781951693503
Your textbook for this class is available for free online, in web view and PDF format. You can also purchase a print version, if you prefer, from OpenStax on Amazon.com.

Course Description: Study of stars, galaxies, and the universe outside our solar system; a laboratory component consisting primarily of astronomical observations is also part of the course.

Course requirements: Your knowledge of the material covered in the course is evaluated using the following assignments and assessments described below:

Syllabus Quiz (1): A short quiz over the syllabus

Introduction (1): An introduction of yourself to the class through the discussion board

Discussion Boards (5): Discussion board posts and replies will focus on a certain question or statement concerning the universe outside our solar system.

Observation lab assignments (5): Assignments in which you will analyze images, evidence, and/or numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion.

Group lab assignment and peer review (1): Group assignment in which you will work with fellow classmates to manipulate and analyze observable facts, evidence, and/or numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion; peer review of lab group members.

Unit Exams (5): Exams covering questions from each chapter of the unit.

Final Exam (1): Comprehensive final exam covering questions from each of the units.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: The points you earn for this course are the sum of all assignments and assessments. The maximum point total from this calculation is 1000 points.

Assignment	Number of assignments/assessments	Max points per assignment	Max points possible	% of Final Grade
Syllabus Quiz	1	50	50	5
Introduction	1	50	50	5
Disc. Boards	5	50	250	25
Individual Observation Labs	5	50	250	25
Group Observation Lab	1	50	50	5
Unit Exams	5	50	250	25
Final Exam	1	100	100	10
Totals	**19**	**-**	**1000**	**100**

A: 900 total points or greater
B: 800 – 899 total points
C: 700 – 799 total points
D: 600 – 699 total points
F: 599 total points or less

Lab Science Statement: The grade for this course consists of both a lecture and laboratory component. Students must earn 70% or better in the laboratory component to successfully pass the course. Earning less than 70% in the laboratory component will result in an F for the course regardless of the lecture grade. Passing the laboratory component and failing the lecture component will not guarantee a passing grade for the course. Deviations from this policy will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Grade Return Policy: All graded work will be returned within one week after the assignment due date.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: *No late work is accepted*. All assignments and exams must be completed and submitted by specified deadlines. All deadlines appear in the course outline of the syllabus as well as the calendar in the course, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all assignments have been submitted by the deadline.

Attendance Policy: Since this is an online class, attending class will be by logging into the class a minimum of 2 times per week and expect to spend 4 to 6 hours each week to review new information, participate in discussions, complete assignments, take exams, and/or other

activities listed in the syllabus course outline and calendar as scheduled by the instructor. Full participation in all course activities is required to earn credit for all graded activities.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Course Communication: The best way to contact me is by e-mail in the course. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them, except for weekends, holidays, and unscheduled COM closures.

Student Learner Outcome	**Maps to Core Objective**	**Assessed via this Assignment**
1. Demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.	Critical Thinking Skills	Properties of Stars Group Activity
2. Manipulate and analyze observable facts, evidence, or numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion.	Empirical and Quantitative Skills	Properties of Stars Group Activity
3. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.	Communication Skills	Properties of Stars Group Activity
4. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support and accomplish a shared goal, while recognizing and respecting different viewpoints.	Teamwork	Properties of Stars Group Activity

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams or plagiarism, is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that assignment or exam, and the student will be referred to the Dean of Students for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Science and Engineering Department Chair, Prof. Abernathy at (409)933-8330 or sabernathy@com.edu.

Course outline

Assignment	Preparation	Due Date
Syllabus Quiz	**Read** over course syllabus.	8/30/2023 by 11:59pm
Introduction	Be prepared to introduce yourself to your classmates in a discussion board	8/30/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 1 Discussion	Refer to instructions given for discussion board posts and replies.	9/3/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 1 Observation	Refer to instructions given for the observation lab assignment	9/10/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 1 Exam	**Read and Study** Chapters 1, 5 & 6. Prepare: unit study guide and practice test	9/17/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 2 Discussion	Refer to instructions given for discussion board posts and replies.	9/24/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 2 Observation	Refer to instructions given for the observation lab assignment	10/1/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 2 Exam	**Read and Study** Chapters 16 – 19. Prepare: unit study guide and practice test	10/8/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 3 Discussion	Refer to instructions given for discussion board posts and replies.	10/15/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 3 Observation	Refer to instructions given for the observation lab assignment	10/22/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 3 Exam	**Read and Study** Chapters 21 – 24. Prepare: unit study guide and practice test	10/29/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 4 Discussion	Refer to instructions given for discussion board posts and replies.	11/5/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 4 Observation	Refer to instructions given for the observation lab assignment	11/12/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 4 Exam	**Read and Study** Chapters 25 – 28. Prepare: unit study guide and practice test	11/19/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 5 Discussion	Refer to instructions given for discussion board posts and replies.	11/26/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 5 Observation	Refer to instructions given for the observation lab assignment	12/3/2023 by 11:59pm
Unit 5 Exam	**Read and Study** Chapters 20, 29 & 30. Prepare: unit study guide and practice test	12/10/2023 by 11:59pm
Group Lab Assignment	Refer to instructions given for the group observation lab assignment	12/10/2023 by 11:59pm
Final Exam	Unit study guides and practice tests	12/13/2023 by 11:59pm

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 7.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress: If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.