

Astronomy 296A, Spring 2015

Professor Edward Olszewski

Course Syllabus

Professor Olszewski's information:

name pronunciation is approximately ol-shef-ski

Office: Steward 316

email: eoteaching AT gmail DOT com (this is my email for teaching, please use it, not other emails for me).

You may drop by any time, but I recommend sending me an email asking for an appointment. I'm also teaching

Astr170B1, so please identify yourself as a 296 student.

DESCRIPTION: Astr 296 is intended for freshman and sophomore astronomy majors and physics majors interested in astronomy. The class will introduce the students to some of the astronomical facilities in the greater Tucson area, and to the research programs in the astronomy department.

Class meets one hour a week during which local astronomers will describe their work and/or research. Some meetings will involve touring on-campus laboratories.

GRADE: Your grade will be based on (1) attendance and (2) a short paragraph you write in your own words summarizing each lecture. There are no exams, no term papers, no final exam.

You are expected to attend all classes. Be sure you sign the attendance sheet passed around at the beginning of class. Do not be late to class. If you are contagiously sick, or have some other REALLY GOOD excuse to miss class, you must send email at least 1 hour before the time of the class (eolszews "at" email.arizona.edu), requesting permission to be absent. But see below, you get one free missed class.

I will not look kindly upon your missing a class for free and THEN asking to miss a class because you're sick.

After every lecture **submit a paragraph to D2L** (about 1/2 page), summarizing what you learned during that

week's lecture. The email can be sent any time after the conclusion of the lecture, but before 11:59pm on the Sunday following the particular class (that's about 5.3 days after the particular class ends). **No credit for late paragraphs will be given.**

You should write this paragraph **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, based on material presented in the lecture. Some of you will need to use more words than others, but the essential point is to explain the small number of big ideas in that class presentation.

The idea is to show me what **YOU** learned, and that you're engaged and thinking. It is not a competition

with the other students. So do not worry if there are seniors in the class.

The D2L dropbox for the first lecture is set up.

If you don't understand what the lecture is about, you should raise your hand and ASK THE LECTURER to explain what s/he is talking about. Remember, it is hard for the lecturer to know exactly how to pitch the class, and they welcome your feedback.

If you are nervous about what to write, you may, **for the first class paragraph only**, email me a draft and ask me if it's sufficient. **This is a one-time deal. Do this by email and NOT through dropbox on d2l.** You still have to hand it in, on time, through dropbox.

I love talking to you, and I love discussing astronomy. But I will not do the homework for you. It's very easy to fire off an email, but part of the reason for the assignment is to give you practice coming away from talks on any subject with "a phrase that pays."

If you are not on the attendance list for that date, of course you may not submit a paragraph.

In this course, we abide by the University rules of academic integrity. This means that the paragraph must be written by you. If you must use an external reference, it may not be wikipedia, or any encyclopedia or dictionary, and it must be clearly and properly cited. **NO QUOTATIONS, use your own words. But give credit to the ideas unless they came directly from the talk.**

We encourage you to read outside the course, but you should not need to look up references in order to write your paragraph. We WILL run your work through turnitin.com.

To get an A in this class, you will attend all lectures, and submit paragraphs on time for all lectures ("all"= 14 or more of the 15. In other words you can miss one class unexcused.)

Every unexcused missing of a class beyond the one free one will drop you a letter grade.

Ditto for submitted paragraphs.

So you get one missed class and one missed paragraph. Presumably that'll be the writeup from the class you miss.

One missed class and 2 missed paragraphs, or 2 missed classes is a B (since you can't hand in that second paragraph).

Remember, if you miss a class, you automatically miss that paragraph.

Two missed classes AND 1 OTHER missed paragraph is a C. You get the picture...

And you should save the one free drop for emergencies such as being sick.

If there is an astronomical conflict, let me know. You can always ask about other conflicts, and I will decide.

WEB SITE: For more information and the latest lecture schedule, see the class web site, http://adansonia.as.arizona.edu/~edo/Astr296A_spring2015