

# Syllabus

## Astronomy 203 – Lec 001 Stars Fall 2016

**LECTURES:** Tuesday, Thursday 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., Flandrau Planetarium Theater

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Thomas A. Fleming

**OFFICE:** Steward Observatory, Room 209

**TELEPHONE:** 621-5049

**EMAIL:** [taf@as.arizona.edu](mailto:taf@as.arizona.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday 10:30 – 11:30 am; Thursday 10:30 am – 12:00 pm  
or by appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Jan-Torge Schindler

**OFFICE:** Steward Observatory, Room 302

**TELEPHONE:** 621-2494

**EMAIL:** [jtschindler@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jtschindler@email.arizona.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 pm; Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30 pm

**MIDTERM EXAMS:** Tuesday, Sep. 27, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Flandrau Planetarium Theater

**REQUIRED SOFTWARE:** *Mastering Astronomy* – accessed through D2L  
*Starry Night College* ver. 7 – available in the ILC Info Commons

**REQUIRED:** TurningPoint® ResponseCard NXT or QT Device

**WEBSITES:** <http://d2l.arizona.edu> (ASTR 203)

<http://www.astro.uiuc.edu/~kaler/sow/sow.html> (*Stars*)

**ATTENDANCE AT LECTURE:** Attendance will be taken electronically at each lecture, starting August 30, and will figure into your final grade. You are required to purchase an NXT or QT clicker for this course. You are responsible to bring it to every lecture. In order to encourage you to do so, we will take attendance at the end of each class using your responder. **Students without a responder will count as absent.** Your absence will be excused if you have an official excuse from the Dean of Students Office, a note from a health care provider, or you are observing a religious holiday which is associated with an organized religion to which you belong. You are responsible for informing Dr. Fleming or Herr Schindler if this is the case. You are responsible for all information given out in the lecture, including schedule changes. In addition, assignments will be announced in lecture. It is clear that the average student gets a higher grade when (s)he faithfully attends lecture.

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation & Administrative Drops is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

**REQUIRED SOFTWARE:** You are required to establish an account on *Mastering Astronomy* via the D2L website. You can purchase an account for \$62.95. If you previously had an account for your Tier 1 course, it is still valid if you established the account since August 2015. The instructions for opening an account on *Mastering Astronomy* and registering for this class are given on Page 5 of this syllabus.

**GRADES:** Your final grade for the course will be based on the following assessments:

Midterm/Final Exams	300 points (43%)
Star Report	100 points (14%)
On-line Homework	200 points (29%)
Attendance	50 points (7%)
Constellation Quiz	50 points (7%)

If you wish to contest a score on one of your assignments, you must contact Dr. Fleming or Herr Schindler no later than 2 weeks after the score is posted on the D2L course site.

These are the hardest percentages needed to earn a specific grade. I reserve the right to further curve the class later, making the grading slightly easier. BUT under no circumstances will anyone doing less than 50% work pass this class.

A	= 630 points (90%)
B	= 560 points (80%)
C	= 455 points (65%)
D	= 350 points (50%)
E	< 350 points

**STAR REPORT:** At the beginning of the semester, you will each be given the name of a star (see the **Grades** page on the D2L website.) That will be your identifier for the entire course. You will be expected to learn everything there is to know about that star, including where it is located in the sky. At the end of the semester, you will be required to submit a written report on your star. The report should cover information on your star such as: 1) its position in the HR-Diagram; 2) where it is in its own life-cycle; 3) a description of how it will end its life; 4) its location in our Galaxy; 5) how it was named, etc. More details will be given in class and on D2L. First drafts will be due on Oct 28 at 5:00 p.m. You will receive feedback on your first draft. Final reports will be due on Nov. 23 at 5:00 p.m. MST. You will also be required to submit your first drafts to TurnItIn.com.

**ON-LINE HOMEWORK:** You will be required to do homework assignments outside of class. They involve computer simulations using the *Starry Night College* (SN) software and the *Mastering Astronomy* (MA) website. You will submit your answers through either the MA or D2L websites. You may discuss the astronomy concepts with your classmates, but you are expected to do your own work on these assignments.

**CONSTELLATION QUIZ:** We have scheduled star parties on two evenings (September 25 & October 23) at Saguaro National Park West. They will last two hours (7 – 9 pm). You are required to attend at least one of them. We will point out the constellations while members of the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association will set up their telescopes for viewing. During one of these sessions, you must take your constellation quiz. To get full credit (50 pts), you must identify 10 constellations and 5 stars.

**DEADLINES:** We will accept **no** late assignments. You will be given at least one week to complete an assignment. If you choose to wait until a few hours before the deadline to do your assignment, you are taking a calculated risk. Should your printer break, Internet go down, or an emergency arise, these will not be valid excuses. You will not get an extension because you chose to wait until the last moment to start the assignment. If this worries you, start your assignments early and hand them in early!! You can submit an assignment to me any time before the deadline.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Presentation of any work other than your own is considered academic dishonesty. This includes copying test answers or homework assignments, other persons taking exams for you, or reference to any unauthorized materials during the exam. Any other technique that gains unfair advantage over other students is also considered academically dishonest. All students must be prepared to present valid picture identification if requested during an exam period. Any incidents of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University of Arizona's Code of Academic Integrity. A copy of this Code can be obtained at the Dean of Students website. The consequences can range from loss of credit on an assignment to dismissal from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. The penalty for plagiarism, cheating on an exam, computer fraud, or using another student's responder to falsify attendance will be automatic failure of the course, and depending on the circumstances, I may seek your suspension or expulsion.

You can find details of the Code at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>

You should also be aware of the University's policies on disruptive and threatening behavior:

<http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination, cf.

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

**TURNITIN.COM:** If you decide to take and continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your papers online, when so instructed, to a plagiarism-prevention program called TurnItIn.com. When you set up your individual account with TurnItIn.com for this class, make sure you understand and consent to all the terms that the program provides you at that point. You should note that TurnItIn.com – always without your name and any personal information – will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this program, the vast majority of you who do your own work and cite your sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism. Anyone who has questions or problems with TurnItIn.com may talk privately about these with Dr. Fleming.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with Dr. Fleming. We will discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; <http://drc.arizona.edu>) and notify Dr. Fleming of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. We do not use the DRC testing center; Dr. Fleming will administer all testing accommodations.

**HONORS CREDIT:** This course is available for Honors credit via an Honors contract. To receive Honors credit, you will have to conduct a project that is more challenging than the assignments outlined in this syllabus, such as taking astronomical images with a telescope. More info at:

<http://www.honors.arizona.edu/future-students/honors-credit-across-campus>

**LEARNER-CENTERED EDUCATION:** The University of Arizona has designated itself a “Learner-Centered University.” This means that the student is expected to take an active role in his/her learning. We intend to conduct this course in accordance with these principles. Do not expect us to lecture for the entire class period while you sit, listen, and take notes. Class time will be peppered with “mini-lectures,” separated by various activities which will make use of the responders. Be prepared to interact with your classmates, ask questions, and participate in group discussions. You will also interact with computer-generated animations and exercises. Our goals for you in this course are that, after it is over, you will have an appreciation for the role that the stars have played in the history of the human race; you will be able to read and understand the information contained in a basic star catalog; you will know how the elements were created; and you will have exercised your critical thinking and problem solving skills. We ask that you participate fully in the course. In return, we promise to make this course as interesting and **fun** for you as we can.

**QUESTIONS:** Students are encouraged to ask questions in class and to seek help if needed. It is to your advantage to seek help when you encounter problems rather than at the last minute just before an assignment deadline. We are here to help you understand something about the subject of astronomy. Remember, there is no such thing as a stupid question!

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sep 23, 25	Introduction, Celestial Motions, Coordinates, Constellations
Aug 30, Sep 1	Naming of Stars, Light
Sep 6, 8	Gravity, Star Motions & Distances
Sep 13, 15	Magnitudes & Color, Atomic Physics
Sep 20, 22	Spectral Classes, HR-Diagram, Binary & Variable Stars
Sep 29	The Sun
Oct 4, 6	Nuclear Fusion Reactions, Solar Activity
Oct 11, 13	Main Sequence Star Lifetimes, Evolution of Low-mass Stars, Clusters
Oct 18, 20	Planetary Nebulae, White Dwarfs, Novae
Oct 25, 27	Evolution of High-mass Stars, Supernovae (Type II)
Nov 1	Neutron Stars
Nov 8, 10	Special Theory of Relativity, General Theory of Relativity
Nov 15, 17	Black Holes
Nov 22	Interstellar Medium
Nov 29, Dec 1	Star Formation, the Milky Way Galaxy
Dec 6	“Star Stuff”

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPENING AN ACCOUNT ON *MASTERING ASTRONOMY*

### Enter your Desire2Learn (D2L) course

1. Sign in to D2L and enter your D2L course.
2. Select the **MyLab & Mastering** widget on the D2L course's home page, and then select any course link on the Pearson page.

### Get access to your Pearson course content

1. Enter your Pearson account **username** and **password** to **Link Accounts**.  
You have an account if you have ever used a Pearson MyLab & Mastering product, such as MyMathLab, MyITLab, MySpanishLab, MasteringBiology or MasteringPhysics.  
If you don't have a Pearson account, select **Create** and follow the instructions.
2. Select an access option:  
Enter the access code that came with your textbook or was purchased separately from the bookstore.  
Buy access using a credit card or PayPal account.  
If available, get temporary access by selecting the link near the bottom of the page.
3. From the You're Done page, select **Go to My Courses**.

**Note:** We recommend you always enter your MyLab & Modified Mastering course through D2L.

### Get your computer ready

For the best experience, check the system requirements for your product at:  
<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/system-requirements/>

### Need help?

For help with MyLab & Modified Mastering with D2L, go to:  
<http://help.pearsoncmg.com/mylabmastering/d2l/student/en/index.html>

## HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN COPY OF *STARRY NIGHT COLLEGE*

Should you wish to own your own copy of *Starry Night College 7* and do the assignments on your own computer then, as students enrolled in this course, you can purchase *Starry Night College* (retail price: \$149.95) for the discount price of \$29.95. Here is what you should do:

1. Go to the following website address:  
<http://store.simulationcurriculum.com/collections/college>
2. Select "1 year license".
3. Type in the 4-digit referral code: 466d
4. Type in your name and click "Add to Cart".
5. Checkout by paying with a credit card and then follow the instructions to download the software.

## Classroom Etiquette

In order to foster a good learning environment for the ASTR 203 course, I agree to obey the following rules of etiquette while attending class:

1. I will not eat food or drink anything other than water in the Flandrau Planetarium Theater.
2. I will not read the *Arizona Daily Wildcat* or any other newspaper while class is in session.
3. I will turn my cell phone or other mobile devices OFF while class is in session.\*

\*3a. If I am a parent or I am in an emergency situation, I will set my cell phone to VIBRATE.

4. I will not disrupt class by talking to my classmates about non-course-related subjects while the professor is speaking to the class.
5. I will not use my laptop to play movies or games or surf the Internet for non-course-related subjects and sites (e.g., FACEBOOK) while class is in session.
6. I will make every effort to arrive in class on time and not leave until class is over.  
If I must arrive late or leave early, I will not disrupt class or distract my classmates.  
**For safety reasons, when the STAR PROJECTOR is in use, the doors to the planetarium theater will be LOCKED. I understand that I will not be able to enter the theater/class while the projector is in use and I must wait until the presentation is over and the doors unlock before entering the class.**
7. I will not bring any pets or animals into the classroom (seeing-eye/therapy dogs exempted.)
8. Should I break any of these rules of etiquette which are listed above, I give Dr. Fleming **full authority** to eject me from the classroom.

Signed,

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Print your name

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Your signature

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Your signature

**[Please sign this copy of the contract and return it to either Dr. Fleming or J.-T. by Tuesday, August 30 or you will be dropped from the class!]**