

ASTR 515 — ISM and Star Formation

Fall 2021

Instructor:

Prof. Daniel Stark
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course will cover basics of atomic and molecular spectroscopy, phases of the ISM, photoionization, line diagnostics, dust physics, basics of star formation, the initial mass function, stellar winds, supernovae, shocks, the CGM, and the IGM.

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for this class; however, Bruce Draine's textbook Physics of the Interstellar and Intergalactic Medium is recommended and will be a useful reference. Another recent text is Interstellar and Intergalactic Medium by Barbara Ryden and Richard Pogge. For a classic and detailed treatment on the physics of ionized gas, the textbook Astrophysics of Gaseous Nebulae and Active Galactic Nuclei by Donald Osterbock and Gary Ferland is the best around. Resources will also be available in the library and on our course website.

Grading Policy:

The final grade will be determined by:

homework: 35%
2 exams: 35 %
in class work: 30%

Grading Scale

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
E	≤50%

Incompletes will only be given if a student has satisfactorily completed the majority of the work in the class and has a valid reason, such as medical, for not completing the remainder of the course. Students must make arrangements with the instructor in order to receive an incomplete.

Assignments and Exams:

There will be homework assigned throughout the semester accounting for 35% of the final grade. The homework will be due at the beginning of class on the days indicated on the schedule. If you have circumstances that cause you to need extra time, please let me know ahead of the due date.

The grade of late homework that is not excused will be penalized.

There will also be two exams, which will account for 35% of the final grade. Exams will be closed book, but relevant equations and constants will be provided. You will be given a review sheet for each exam.

In-class Activities:

We will often do short problems/exercises in small groups. We will also review recent papers on relevant topics throughout the semester with the goal of introducing you to modern applications of ISM and star formation. Each of you will be asked to give a short (5-10 minute) informal overview of the paper, as you would present at an arXiv discussion. Content of the papers will be covered on the exams, so everyone is expected to be familiar with the main points of all papers covered. In-class activities and will account for 30% of the grade.

Course Modality:

This course is scheduled to be taught in-person. Lectures will be available on Zoom and will be recorded and placed on D2L. To receive credit for in-class activities, you must be in the classroom unless you have discussed why you are calling in via zoom with the professor.

Learning outcomes

1. Exhibit an expert-level facility to engage with the principle findings, common applications, current problems, fundamental techniques, and underlying theory of the astronomy discipline.
2. Demonstrate advanced discipline skills and knowledge necessary to utilize the observational techniques, instrumentation, computational methods, and software applications used to investigate modern astrophysical phenomena and problems.
3. Develop expertise with communicating, translating and interpreting fundamental astronomical concepts and research results in oral and/or written formats.

Additional Information:

As we enter the Fall semester, the health and wellbeing of everyone in this class is the highest priority. Accordingly, we are all required to follow the university guidelines on COVID-19 mitigation. Please visit www.covid19.arizona.edu for the latest guidance.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements are encouraged to register with the Disability Resource Center and con-tact us to discuss access issues.

Students are expected to follow all of the university-wide student policies, which are available [athttp://catalog.arizona.edu](http://catalog.arizona.edu)

Students are also expected to understand and follow the Student Code of Academic Integrity:<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>

Other than grade and absence policies, the information contained in this syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice.