

## Syllabus

<b>Course</b>	: Astronomy 1401	Physical Science Building Room 130
<b>Instructor</b>	:	
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Tel. 665-7088, Planetarium, E-mail: x@utpa.edu	
<b>Office Hours</b>	:	
<b>Lab Manual</b>	:	Handouts ( <a href="http://www.utpa.edu/dept/physci">http://www.utpa.edu/dept/physci</a> )

### Course Description and Objectives

The ASTR1401 is the first part of an introductory level astronomy course. A study of basic concepts in astronomy and of the solar system. Telescopes and other instruments, including the planetarium, are used as an integral part of the course. At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand and apply method and appropriate technology to study astronomy.
2. Recognize scientific and quantitative methods and approaches used by astronomers to communicate findings and interpretation.
3. Identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories dealing with the creation of our solar system.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing astronomy today; e.g., how many “planets” revolve around our sun?
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and the effects on our modern culture. Today’s astronomical instruments and techniques are expanding our views of the earth and its place in the universe.

### Student Learning Outcomes for Natural Science Core Curriculum Courses

The two course sequence, ASTR 1401 and ASTR 1402, is designed to enable the student to:

1. understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences;
2. recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing;
3. identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories;
4. demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies; and,
5. demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture.

### Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services office for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of The University of Texas-Pan American to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Disability Services office (DS), University Center #322, 665-7005 or [disabilityservices@utpa.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@utpa.edu).

## Out Line

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Unless otherwise approved by the laboratory instructor and Laboratory Supervisor/Coordinator, upon a 3rd absence (whether excused or unexcused), the student will receive an “F” for the entire course not just the laboratory portion. You may not receive laboratory credit by attending or transferring to another laboratory section without the approval of both the laboratory instructor and the Laboratory Supervisor/Coordinator which are handled only on a case by case basis. A student who knows that they will miss a laboratory should make arrangements with the laboratory instructor prior to missing the laboratory; otherwise, a student who has missed a laboratory should contact their laboratory instructor immediately. There are no make-up quizzes. A student, by making appropriate arrangement through the laboratory instructor and Laboratory Supervisor/Coordinator, may make-up a laboratory but only by attending one of the other lab sections during the same week in which the laboratory was missed. The student must have the make-up laboratory work assignment signed by the laboratory instructor of the make-up laboratory and the student must turn-in that assignment to their original laboratory instructor by the beginning of their following (next) regularly scheduled laboratory period.

**Drop:** Dropping this course is discouraged. Do not drop the course unless you have talked to a Counselor first. To drop this course the student may make the request **in person** to the lecture instructor before the drop deadline.

**Materials to bring:** Laboratory handouts from website, The Cosmic Perspective (The text, which you use for lecture), Scientific Calculator (No calculators will be shared on Quizzes), Pencils, Scantron form # 30423 for quizzes

### **Grade:**

Lab-Report(11)	40%
Quizzes(9)	35%
Final Exam	25%
Core Course Assessment Pre-test	5%
Core Course Assessment Post-test	1.25%

The Laboratory Report is the last section of the laboratory handout where observations are to be recorded and the given questions are to be answered in writing. At the end of the semester only one laboratory report grade may be dropped. Quizzes will usually consist of 10 multiple choice or true/false questions and will cover materials from the previous laboratory. At the end of the semester only one quiz grade may be dropped. The departmental final exam will contain both questions on theory and a practical laboratory in which the individual student will utilize a piece of laboratory equipment or items supplied from a laboratory experiment to answer questions.

Completion of the laboratory class is required to pass the ASTR 1401 course. If you fail the laboratory (grade of less than 65 of 100), you will receive a failing grade for the entire course regardless of your lecture grade.

**Student Questions/Concerns:** May be directed to the Laboratory Coordinator: Hector Leal, Office: SCIE 3.140, Office Tel.: (956) 665-2185; Email address: lealh@utpa.edu

***“The new university policy requires all email communication between the University and students be conducted through the students' official University supplied BroncMail account. Therefore, please use your UTPA assigned BroncMail for any future correspondence with UTPA faculty and staff”.***

## Tentative LAB – Experiment Schedule

Date	Astronomy 1401
Jan 17 to Jan 23	Syllabus & Pretest
Jan 24 to Jan 30	Graphing
Jan 31 to Feb 6	Seasons
Feb 7 to Feb 13	Moon Phases and Topography
Feb 14 to Feb 20	Eclipses
Feb 21 to Feb 27	Units and Measurement
Feb 28 to March 5	Ray Tracing
March 6 to March 19	Spectra
March 12 to March 18	No Labs (Spring Break)
March 20 to March 26	Telescopes
March 27 to Apr 2	Parallax
Apr 3 to Apr 8	No Labs (Easter)
Apr 9 to Apr 15	Solar System
Apr 16 to Apr 22	Celestial Globe
Apr 23 to April 29	Lab Finals

**Note: Lab Final Exam will be on week of April 23 to April 29 during lab time in lab room.**