

Welcome to **ASTRONOMY!**



Astronomy is a course full of exploration centered around the scale of the universe, how astronomers have learned to study the sky, the works of gravity, the behavior of light, the use of telescopes, the details of our solar system, the life cycle of stars including our sun, the makeup of our galaxy, other galaxies, theories regarding our universe, and the field of astrobiology!

Instructor Information:

Mrs. Witucki

Room 130

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(724)845-8181 ext. 5130

Student and Guardian Information:

At the conclusion of this syllabus, there is an information section that needs to be fully completed, signed, and returned to class by the date specified. Communication is very important to success in education, so this information is imperative to be able to keep both students and families informed about our class and student success.

Textbook for the Class:

There will not be a mandated textbook. Seeds' and Backman's *Foundations of Astronomy* (12th Edition) is a reference textbook that can be utilized throughout the course if needed. Any student who wishes to gain an access code will be granted one and can register for their online copy at the start of the school year. A classroom set of texts will be provided for in-class purposes, but will not be assigned to students. The bulk of the course material needed can be found on the class website discussed in a later section.

Textbook Website: www.cengagebrain.com

Grading Scale:

92-100 A

83-91 B

74-82 C

65-73 D

Grading Breakdown:

The grades for this course will be an array of homework assignments, quizzes, tests, research projects, class participation and preparation. All assignment deadlines, quizzes, and tests will be displayed on the class's Google calendar that is linked to the course website and will also be posted on the monthly calendar in the classroom. Dates are always subject to change, so please check often for updates. All students will be made aware of all test dates and assignment deadlines in a timely fashion and will also be notified in class of any changes. It is the student's full responsibility to make sure that he/she is aware of these dates and prepares accordingly.

Assignment Policy:

All assignments are to be submitted on time at the start of the class period. Assignment points will be deducted by **50%** if late without an official excuse from school. Students will be allotted the equal number of days from absence to complete work up to a maximum of 5 days unless specified otherwise.

Any students attending a field trip need to gather missed work PRIOR to departing. There is **NO** deadline extension for field trips! It is the full responsibility of the student to collect missed assignments and submit them when they are due or the day they return. The instructor is not responsible for missed work that has not been submitted or addressing the student in regards to absence from material in class. This includes tests and quizzes.

All late assignments (whether excused or unexcused) need to be submitted to the drop boxes in the classroom with a fully completed "Late Assignment" form attached. Any work submitted without a completed form will not receive credit.

Class Absence:

As with the assignment policy, students are responsible for any class that is missed. However, students are always welcome to come in during available times during the day, homeroom, before school, and after school to work with the instructor on the missed material. Biology is a collective subject and builds quickly. Please make sure to seek help if needed! If students feel they need any additional help, they are absolutely welcome to see Mrs. Witucki or Ms. Strong at any time to schedule one-on-one assistance. If a student has been present for all instruction and misses a quiz or test while absent, he/she will be expected to complete it the day of return.

School Website:

All digital classroom notes and information will be posted to the course website on a weekly basis, alongside access to the course calendar through Google. This is a very useful tool that both students and families can view to see all updates regarding the class. This site is through the Weebly domain and is accessible from any technological device without any need for a login or email registration.

Site: <http://kiskiastronomy.weebly.com>

Assignments will be posted through Google Classroom which all students will be invited to join. This will be linked to the course website and will be utilized daily through Chromebooks.

Optional Assignments:

There is no extra credit or optional assignment that will be offered at any time. The design of the course allows all students to have a great opportunity at being successful and being able to enjoy what the astronomy field has to offer. Students are to be diligent in monitoring their grades online and addressing any concerns with the instructor immediately.

Materials for the Class:

Students are required to bring certain materials to this class and will be credited points towards their quarter grades for attending class in an organized and prepared fashion. Below is a list of the materials needed. If a student is having difficulty coming up with these materials, it is his/her responsibility to see Mrs. Witucki prior to the deadline stating when materials need to be present for class. There are plenty of extra materials available that can be allotted to students who need them as long as the student comes forward to seek them if needed. Addressing this issue after the deadline will result in a zero for the material's preparation credit.

Materials Needed:

- 3 ring binder with loose notebook paper
- binder dividers (minimum of five: Notes, Classwork, Labs, Reviews, Class Information)
- a pencil (colored pens will not be tolerated)

Organization is the key to success in any realm of science, so it is imperative that students follow suit as we take on one of its finest fields! There will be quarterly binder checks, so students need to make sure that the materials received in class remain organized in their binders so that they are available when needed.

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- show respect to their peers, teacher, and also themselves
- arrive to class on time and prepared with all necessities
- give 100% through their assignments and efforts both in and out of class

Science is all about respectable collaboration and the same expectation holds true for this course as it will grant the whole group the ability to be successful! This means that any late arrival to class, defacing or destruction of classroom equipment, inability to follow directions, being unprepared, or disrespect to the instructor or fellow students will be unacceptable and subject to immediate discipline.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Any form of academic dishonesty (cheating) or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be considered a serious offense throughout this course.

This includes:

- directly copying any information from peers, online, or through other sources and deeming it one's own on any assignment... this includes group work and lab work!
- glancing at a peer's quiz or test to seek answers
- using any type of aide (cheat sheet) during a quiz or test

Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a score of zero for the assignment, project, quiz, or test, the student will be deducted participation credit, and the student will not be granted an opportunity to redo the assignment or retake the quiz/test.

Food & Drink:

Students will be permitted to bring a drink to class as long as it is in a **CLEAR** container. Food will only be allowed if students are careful and clean up promptly. Students must also be diligent and cautious around those with food allergies. Do not bring anything that will be distracting to others. There is to be **NO** food or drink in the lab setting. This includes water. Having food and drinks in the classroom is a privilege and will be taken away if abused or if consistent reprimanding is needed.

Technology Usage:

Technology can be a great tool, but it can also be a highly distracting tool and hinder productivity. This year is the first year of the Chromebook initiative.

Here are the stipulations for the Chromebook usage during the course:

1. Students must have their Chromebooks present for every class, charged, and ready to go!
2. If a student forgets a Chromebook, he/she will be subject to a loss of participation points and must make up the class assignment on his/her own time. There are no deadline extensions for incomplete assignments due to a forgotten Chromebook.
3. Students must remain on-task at all times and **CANNOT** utilize the Chromebook to complete other assignments or work during class time, unless direct permission has been granted from the instructor.

Only under direct instructions will personal technology be permitted in class. These instructions will be provided by the instructor that day. At all other times, personal technology is to be silenced and stored away so that there are no distractions to the student or his/her peers. The instructor is not held responsible for any missing or damaged technological devices brought to class. It is the full responsibility of the student to handle his/her technology properly. Technological devices consist of cell phones, tablets, or any other hand held devices. The use of personal, technological devices will never be mandatory as each student is supplied with a Chromebook by the school. Any devices in use during inappropriate times will be confiscated for the duration of the class period and participation credit will be deducted. Repeat offenses will be subject to discipline.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS SIGNATURE FORM

Student First and Last Name: _____

Period: _____

Grade Level: _____

Student Email: _____

Allergies/Medical Conditions:

(This information is for lab purposes and will remain strictly confidential with the instructor.)

Parent/Guardian(s): _____

Relation to the Student: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Email Address(s): _____

Preferred Method of Contact (please circle): Phone Email

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the procedures, expectations, and implementations addressed in this syllabus for the astronomy course.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form is due back to class _____!