

Rhodes College
Department of Physics
Physics 101- Survey of Astronomy

General Course Information-Spring Term, 2000

Show a little inspiration, show a little spark.....

Mary Chapin Carpenter, "The Hard Way"

This survey course in astronomy is directed toward the non-science-major student. The text is *Discovering the Universe* by Comins and Kaufmann (Freeman, 1999). It is required. The CD accompanying the text (not required) is quite useful.

Lectures will both cover and expand upon material in the text and cover other topics--in short, lectures will not, in general, follow the text in detail. You are responsible on tests and the exam for both text and lecture material. Only elementary math, mainly algebra, will be employed; we will introduce the use of scientific notation, and similar numerical and algebraic topics, in class. If you are enrolled in the lab course, note that the lab grade is separate from the lecture one.

Course grading is based upon the following weights:

Hour Tests (4)	40%
Weekly Reports	15%
Problems	15%
Final Exam	30%

A weekly report, about 200 words in length, on any article exceeding 2 pages in length from any issue over the past two years from any of the popular magazines *Astronomy*, *Sky and Telescope* or *Scientific American* is due at the start of class on the day given on the assignment sheet. Your report should briefly summarize the subject matter, and include your reaction to and understanding of it (it's OK not to understand all of the article, especially early in the term!). The magazines are available in the Burrow Library, with the first two also available in the Physics Library (Room 326 in Rhodes Tower) from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.

Problems are due at the **start** of class on the assigned day. No late work--problems or weekly report--will be accepted. If you will not be in class on the day an assignment is due, make failsafe arrangements to have your work submitted on time.

My office hours (219 RT, x3915, email:rmac) will be announced; others may be arranged by appointment, most efficiently by email. I am glad to discuss and amplify upon

lecture or text materials and offer guidance on problems during office hours or at prearranged times.