

Course Meeting time: MWF 11:30-12:30pm, Frasier-Jelkie A

Course Website: <http://www.physics.rhodes.edu/>

Instructor: Dr. Ann M. Viano
Office: 423 Rhodes Tower
Phone/email: 843-3912/ viano@rhodes.edu
Office Hours: M,W 9:00-11:00am, T 2:00-4:00pm, and by appointment

DESCRIPTION and GOALS: This course is a survey of astronomy directed towards the nonscience major. The range of topics is very broad, from observations of our nearest neighbors in the solar system to the origin and evolution of the universe. If you learn the basic properties pertaining to the structure and composition of the universe, you will have the required knowledge to understand the facts and significance of new astronomical discoveries that will occur in your lifetime.

REQUIRED TEXT: Bennet, Donahue, Schneider, Voit. *The Cosmic Perspective, Brief Edition*, Addison-Wesley Longman.

COURSE WORK and EVALUATION: Your grade for this course is based on the following activities, weighted as shown:

<i>In-class exams (4)</i>	<i>40% (10% each)</i>
<i>In-class participation</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Weekly Reports</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Problems</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>30%</i>

★ **Exams:** Make-up exams will be given only in extreme cases, and then only on the condition that the student notifies the instructor in advance of missing an exam. Make-up exams will typically prove more difficult than the original.

★ **Assignments:** Assignments are due at the start of class on the day indicated on the course schedule. No late assignments will be accepted.

Problems: The problems listed on the course schedule are from the problems at the end of each chapter. In these problems, you will *apply* the knowledge gained in class and through the reading.

The Weekly Report: see attached sheet

★ **Grades:** All graded work will be assigned a percentage score out of 100. You may estimate the corresponding letter grade by comparing it to this scale:

95-100 A; 90-95 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-;
77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; 60-69 D; <60 F

★ **Class-participation:** Graded in-class assignments may be in the form of hands-on group activities, small group discussions with summaries presented aloud, or short quizzes on the expected reading.

★ **Attendance:** Attendance is not recorded, but you are responsible for all material discussed in class and in-class work cannot be made-up.

★ The conditions of the Honor Code described in the Rhodes College Student Handbook apply to all assignments and exams in this course unless otherwise specified by the instructor.