



Physics & Astronomy: Solar System (ASTRO 100)

Fall 2026
SCI03104/L



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Instructor

	Dr. Krista Hook Email: Krista.Hook@bsu.edu Office: Elliot Hall – B008B Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities, Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306		Office Hours:	
			Monday:	4pm – 6pm
			Tuesday:	4pm – 6pm
			Wednesday:	4pm – 6pm
			Thursday:	4pm – 6pm
			Friday:	4pm – 6pm
		Email me for alternative times.		
Required Materials	• Astronomy – OpenStax (Online Text) ◦ Link HERE • ExPlanet Digital Textbook (Online Text) ◦ Link HERE • Computer Access w/ Internet			
Meeting Times 2 Sections	<u>Lecture Sections</u> MWF: 10:00am – 11:50am (Class) MWF: 11:00am – 11:50am (Class)	<u>Lab Sections</u> R: 11:00am – 1:00pm (Lab) R: 2:00pm – 4:00pm (Lab)		
BSU Credits	Ball State University: College of Science and Humanities: Department of Physics and Astronomy Course Credits: 3 / Course Name: ASTRO 100			
Course Requirements and Specifications	Prerequisite: None Co-requisite: Physics & Astronomy: Solar System Lab (SCI03104L)	Required Sequence: Physics & Astronomy: Physics w/ Lab Credit: 1.5 credits Offered: Fall & Spring		

Course Content Overview

Welcome to Solar System Astronomy!

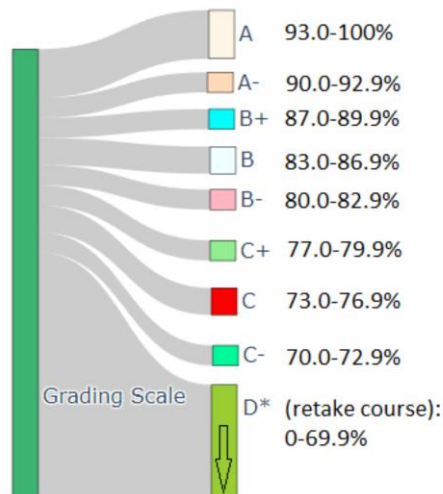
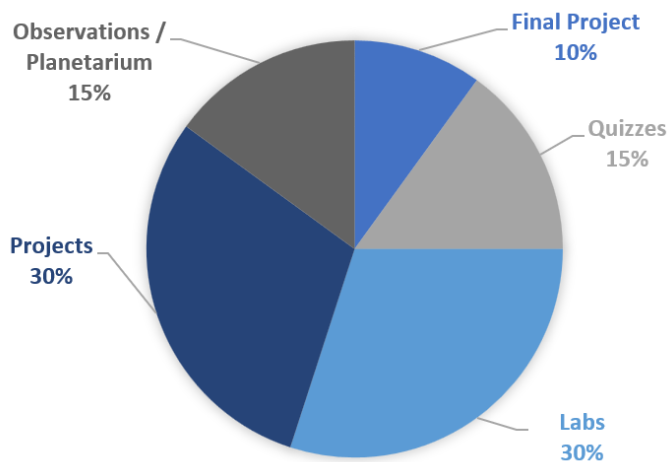
In this one semester course, students will explore the history of astronomy and take a deep dive into the field of planetary science. There are elements of geology and physics in this Physics & Astronomy: Solar System, as well as a focus of the importance of light to understand Earth's backyard, the Solar System, and beyond.

The course also includes lab experience, launching students into basic calculations and creative projects that aids in understanding Earth, our neighboring planets, and the Sun. There will also be required 10 late evening sky observations (as weather permits) and 10 summaries of self-chosen public shows of the Ball State Planetarium (as scheduling permits). See times & shows at: <https://www.bsu.edu/calendar/calendars/academics/planetarium>

* Ball State University offers 3 college credit hours in ASTRO 100 to students who complete this Academy course. Refer to the Dual Credit section for details on enrollment and fees.

**Completing both this course and Physics & Astronomy: Physics will satisfy the Indiana Academy graduation requirement of completing two semesters of physics.

Grade Calculation & Scale



Course Content & Mastery Goals

There are no Exams in this course.

There are categories listed below for content covered this semester. Throughout the semester, these different contents will be covered and assessed. The benefit of assessing and grading in this way is to afford students the opportunity to provide evidence of learning of a concept (such as Earth's Seasons) via projects and labs but not assessing students through stressful, singular exams. A final grade should reflect what a student KNOWS, independent of their journey to get there.

Therefore, it is essential that students:

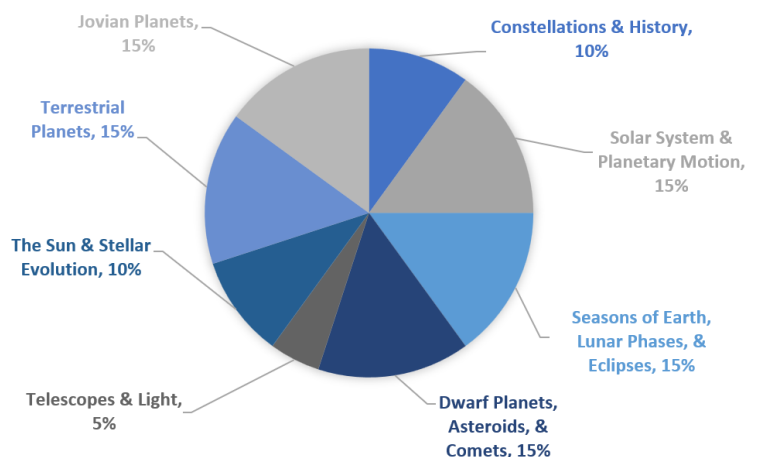
1. Complete assignments and use time given in class to work on them
2. Collaborate (but not copy or split assignments) with other students
 - a. Please review the collaboration section of this syllabus to better understand the expectations
 - b. Please review Academic Dishonesty in the Student Handbook
 - c. All work must be completed (in whole) by every student as their individual and independent work and not created in part or as a whole by more than one student.

The final exam will be a series of final projects (that can be completed before Finals Week).

Planetarium Visits do not include times when we, as a class, visit. These are visits you make to weekly shows the planetarium performs outside of class. Announcements will be made to remind you to go and instructions on how to provide reflections when needed.

Concepts & Time Dedication

Constellations & History	10%
Solar System & Planetary Motion	15%
Seasons of Earth, Lunar Phases, & Eclipses	15%
Dwarf Planets, Asteroids, & Comets	15%
Telescopes & Light	5%
The Sun & Stellar Evolution	10%
Terrestrial Planets	15%
Jovian Planets	15%
	100%



Fall 2026 *Tentative* Semester Schedule

***Planetarium Visits have been requested but are not officially booked.

Week	Events	Lecture	Lab
1 Aug 10 – 14		Unit 1: Constellations & History	Constellations & Cultures
2 Aug 17 – 21		Unit 2: Solar System & Planetary Motion	Size of Space Lab
3 Aug 24 – 28		Unit 3: Seasons of Earth, Lunar Phases, & Eclipses	Constellation Project / Presentations
4 Aug 31 – Sept 4		Unit 4: Dwarf Planets, Asteroids, & Comets	Distance & Mass Project
5 Sept 7 – 11	Sep 7 th – 8 th – Labor Day Break – No School	Unit 5: Telescopes & Light	Solar & Lunar Lab Reason for the Seasons Lab
6 Sept 14 – 18		Unit 6: The Sun & Stellar Evolution	HR Diagram & Stellar Distances
7 Sept 21 – 25		Unit 6: The Sun & Stellar Evolution	HR Diagram & Habitable Planet Search Lab
8 Sept 28 – Oct 2		Unit 6: The Sun & Stellar Evolution	Binding Energy & Stellar Nucleosynthesis Project
9 Oct 5 – 9	Oct 9 th - Friday Parent/Teacher Conferences	Unit 7: Terrestrial Planets (Earth)	Near Earth Objects (NEOs) Lab
10 Oct 12 – 16	Oct 12 th – 16 th – Fall Break		
11 Oct 19 – 23		Unit 7: Terrestrial Planets (Earth)	Rock Cycle Lab
12 Oct 26 – 30		Unit 7: The 4 Terrestrial Planets (Mercury & Venus)	Laws of Geology Lab & Earthquake Mapping
13 Nov 2 – 6	Nov 4 th – 8 th – Student Evaluations	Unit 7: The 4 Terrestrial Planets (Mercury & Venus)	Geological Timeline Project
14 Nov 9 – 13		Unit 7: The 4 Terrestrial Planets (Mars)	Citizen Scientist Lab #1 (TBA)
15 Nov 16 – 20		Unit 8: The 4 Jovian Planets (Jupiter & Saturn)	Citizen Scientist Lab #2 (TBA)
16 Nov 23 – 27	Nov 25 th – 29 th – Thanksgiving Break No School		
17 Nov 30 – Dec 4		Unit 8: The 4 Jovian Planets (Uranus & Neptune)	Citizen Scientist Lab #3 (TBA)
18 Dec 7 – 11		Review ALL UNITS	Research Report Due Extra Credit Due ALL assignments & makeups DUE
19 Dec 14 – 17	Final Exam Week		

Classroom Policies*

*Subject to change as the need arises.

IA Wireless Device Policy:

Per Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, each school corporation must adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that:

- Prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device unless directed by the classroom teacher for educational purposes only.

If required for participation in classroom instruction, a teacher may direct students to use only laptops or tablets. Cellphones, gaming devices, and smartwatches may not be used and must always be stored in a residential room, locker, backpack, or cellphone holders in the classroom. Students are prohibited from using any wireless communication device in the hallways, bathrooms, and all other locations inside the instructional building unless directly instructed to by a teacher. Students violating this policy may have their phone taken by a Burriss or Indiana Academy school official for the remainder of the day. Phones can be picked up from the school office at the end of the instructional day. Repeated violations of this policy will result in further consequences as outlined in the Student Handbook. This policy does not apply to the residential hall (Wagoner/Elliott) except when a teacher temporarily holds a class session in a location other than the Burriss Laboratory building. This policy does not apply to Ball State University courses or other Ball State University buildings.

The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

Laptops or tablets are required for lab sessions.

Laptops or tablets are also required for some homework, quizzes, and other activities, including during class for note-taking or other class-related needs.

No game-playing, movie-watching, e-mail, or IM'ing allowed in class -- doing so will result in a recorded absence for that day. Laptops/iPads, if available, should be brought to class during laboratory sessions. This is so you can record, graph, and analyze your data in real-time, both to save you time AND to catch errors as they happen! Use of electronic devices for any other use during lecture is forbidden without prior agreement with the instructor. (And I will give permission if the use is "reasonable"!)

While in class or lab, please keep computer use restricted to classroom-relevant tasks.

Assignments must be submitted digitally on Canvas as a PDF or .DOCX file and data as .JPEG, .PNG, or .XLSX. Data analysis must be submitted as a .XLSX (other formats do not open in Canvas). Google sheets or other links to external sources of your submissions will not be accepted.

Lab reports focus on writing skills, an essential aspect of any professional skillset.

Cell Phone Policy:

Students who have cellphones with them must turn them OFF, and place them in the provided receptacle when they enter the classroom. They will pick them up when they leave the classroom. There are two exceptions:

Faculty can allow students to retain and use their cellphones for accessing educational material or other relevant activities during a class period. Any other use of cell phones that is not specifically approved by the instructor is strictly prohibited.

Students who have a medical need, or documented learning accommodations that permit phone usage, may keep their cellphones on them if permission is granted from the Nurses' office or administrators.

Inclusive Excellence Statement:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as

expressed in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, Inclusive Excellence at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive. Unfortunately, there might be occasions when something occurs that disrupts our progress toward meeting these objectives. In this case, we encourage any member of the Academy community to discuss the complaint with a faculty member who will report the complaint to Dr. Casey Schultz or you can directly speak to Dr. Casey Schultz or Dr. Joel Olufowote. All reports will be taken seriously, and appropriate responses will be carried out by Academy administration.

I truly believe in this policy, and endeavor to go above and beyond in our classroom setting. If you see any behavior that goes against the above policy (even if it's mine!), please bring it to my attention (or have someone you trust do so if you are hesitant). Alternatively, you can find the appropriate form at academy.bsu.edu/forms to report the incident directly to your DEI Coordinator.

Withdrawal Deadlines

If you wish to drop your class(es), you must do so by the deadline.

The withdrawal deadline will be announced once published by the University Registrar.

Dropping/Withdrawing from a class at your high school does not drop/withdraw you from your BSU Dual Credit class. Instructions for dropping/withdrawing can be found in the Dual Credit Student and Parent Handbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students may receive excused absences at the professional discretion of the school nurse, the associate director of mental health services, the associate director of college counseling and student engagement, the director of academic affairs, and the executive director of the Indiana Academy. Unexcused absences occur when students miss class without prior approval from the aforementioned designated school officials. Continued absences (both excused and unexcused) from Academy classes increase the likelihood of unsuccessful completion.

Alongside steady attendance, students are expected to maintain consistent healthy habits of decorum, respect, and kindness towards their classmates, instructors, and teaching assistants. When students fail to meet these classroom behavioral standards and academic habits, it is the expectation faculty engage appropriately to bring quick and immediate resolution. When students consistently fail to meet these behavioral standards and academic habits in the classroom, administrative action will be taken involving, but not limited to, parent/guardian communication, removal of privileges, administrative withdrawal from the classroom, suspension, and expulsion.

Makeup Exams: As mentioned elsewhere in this document, I do not offer makeup exams but, instead, have what I refer to as 'redemption exams.' Every exam a student needs to makeup or improve the score of can be redeemed on the next exam given exam that semester through mastery.

The only exception to this is for students who can take the originally scheduled exam BEFORE WE GO OVER THE RUBRIC, which is often withing a day or two of the scheduled exam time. If you know you are going to miss an exam (or even if not), making sure you can take the exam the same day (or very very early the next day) is your best chance at avoiding the situation where you have to wait for the next exam to redeem points missed from a missed exam. Again, it is your responsibility to schedule this with me!

It is also important that your brain be here as well as your body. Students who fall asleep in class (I'm not *that* boring!) will receive either a 'tardy' or an 'absent' mark from the instructor, depending on circumstances. Make sure you avoid this by getting enough sleep the night before! Late arrivals after 15 minutes into class-time will result in an absence for that day. No exceptions. Excused absences must be arranged before class starts, the paperwork must be filed with Ms. Drumm, Attendance Coordinator. Students arriving after the start of class may receive a Tardy.

Student is responsible for all information missed due to not being present.

Late Work Policy

Late work is defined as work that is submitted more than 24 hrs past the deadline outlined by myself or on Canvas. Any work not submitted automatically is scored as a zero until submitted (0 pts.).

If work is submitted but it has been more than 24 hrs since it was due, the work may be graded with a 50% deduction of points in the gradebook. Last day to submit late work will be the Friday BEFORE finals week each semester. After this time, all zeroes (0 pts.) will remain and cannot be made-up or submitted for points.

All work (except Lab Data Collection) can be submitted or made-up any time before FRIDAY BEFORE FINALS of each semester.

Data Collection during Labs, in particular, generally cannot be made up. If you miss a lab, you must connect with me and arrange for the alternate lab assignment. Otherwise, it will be a zero in gradebook.

My late policy is NOT recommended to be used to put this course “on the back burner” as it were. My late policy is intended as a mercy in this extremely challenging course, not as a means to procrastinate yourself into a corner. Be cautious when deciding to submit or complete work late. There’s no point penalty, but you may incur psychic damage.

Additional Points

Email me one, school-appropriate, cute photo of a pet (if pet is not your pet, please acquire permission to photograph and submit before doing so). These photos will be presented to the class during the in-class final exam review. Deadline: The Friday BEFORE finals week each semester. Worth: +1% on any mastery exam category of the student’s choice at the end of each semester.

Student Accommodation Policy

Students possessing an educational 504 or IEP should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange for any accommodations that may be needed. Likewise, if you feel that you could benefit from an educational 504 or IEP, feel free to contract the instructor to this regard.

I am willing to help students succeed, so feel free to request accommodations with or without the above criteria.

Collaboration Policy

There will be moments in this course that I encourage everyone to collaborate, or work together, to achieve success. These may include grouping students during difficult assignments, labs, or a general encouragement to seek each other for assistance in my course.

Collaboration does not mean: copying or otherwise plagiarizing work from others (or A.I. generated content), dividing work amongst two or more individuals, or sending/providing completed work for others to review.

Collaboration is a form of actively helping each other in ways that allow all individuals to complete their own work but in a way that allows them to ask questions, get feedback, and improve performance.

All work submitted in my course (including work meant to be completed as a group) must be solely the work of the individual submitting it. This means you are writing your own report, for example, but you are free to discuss and compare each other’s work before submission. Collaborations are consultations only.

Please refer to the handbook concerning Academic Dishonesty and the policies concerning consequences.

There are also student groups, such as the National Honor Society (NHS), and other student orientated parts of the Indiana Academy that have their own consequences concerning Academic Dishonesty. Be aware that many of these consequences begin with immediate expulsion due to infringement of Academy Dishonesty policies.

Resources Available to You

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295, Bracken Library, or online) to get additional feedback on your writing. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to www.bsu.edu/writingcenter.

Online and in-person appointments are available seven days a week; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments.

To make an appointment, visit my.bsu.edu and click on “TutorTrac” in the Additional Tools section, or just go directly to <https://ballstate.go-redrock.com>.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions.

For more information about all of our programming, visit <https://bsu.edu/learningcenter> or call (765) 285-1006.

Additionally, the Indiana Academy is currently building volunteers for a Writing Center of our own! At this time, please email Dr. Sarah Bertekap (sarah.bertekap@bsu.edu) or see her in her office (Elliot Basement – B027A) to ask her about this resource.

Important Information You May Need to Know

Dual Credit-High School Credit Policy Statement

Students may choose to enroll in Ball State’s Dual Credit Program to earn college credit for ASTR 120, the Sun and Stars, from Ball State at a reduced rate of tuition (\$250 flat rate). Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch this academic year may enroll at no charge if verified by the school.

To enroll in Ball State’s Dual Credit Program, students should have a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and complete the application & registration process before the given deadline. Ball State will bill students via postal mail; no money should be submitted to the high school. College credit can only be earned during the semester (or, in the case of year-long classes, during the academic year) in which the student is enrolled. Late enrollments are not permitted.

Whether college credit earned through dual credit courses will be accepted by another institution of higher education is determined by the college or university to which a student is seeking admission. Before enrolling through Ball State’s Dual Credit Program, students should check directly with that institution to determine if a course will be accepted and how it will be counted toward graduation requirements. Refunds will not be issued if Ball State credits are not able to be transferred. In most cases, students will need to earn a C or better to transfer credit from Ball State to another institution. Grades of D or lower earned in Ball State Dual Credit courses are recorded on a student’s Ball State transcript but may not be able to transfer.

The rigor of this course will be periodically reviewed by Ball State University faculty in an effort to maintain the high quality of education that each student receives. To learn more about Ball State’s Dual Credit Program, visit bsu.edu/dualcredit, call 765-285-1581 or email dualcredit@bsu.edu.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY BENEFICENCE PLEDGE

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains outstanding faculty, staff, and students. Ball State is committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the varied experiences and worldviews of the people whom we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, inclusiveness at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive.

Indiana Academy Diversity Statement

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities is committed to being an inclusive educational community that values diversity in policy and practice. We aim to foster an educational environment where students, faculty, and staff exchange ideas freely, engage in critical thinking, and reexamine their personal perspectives. To create an environment where this respectful and productive dialogue is possible, we do not allow discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, geographic origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, age, or nationality. The affirmation, appreciation, and inclusion of multiple cultures ensures that all students, faculty, staff, and the wider Indiana Academy community will be able to thrive in our multicultural academic and residential environment.

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge. For Bias Incident Response information or to report a bias-based incident, please click here or e-mail reportbias@bsu.edu.

BSU Student Rights and Responsibilities

While enrolled in Ball State's Dual Credit Program, you are expected to abide by the academic rules of behavior befitting a university student. You should read the Dual Credit Student and Parent Handbook, located at <https://bsu.edu/dualcredit>

In particular, review the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, focusing on the policies regarding student rights and responsibilities, behavior, academic integrity, and related procedures.

The Dual Credit Student and Parent Handbook includes information regarding student qualifications, prerequisites, available courses, responsibilities, financial aid stipulations, transferability, withdrawal, refund and billing policies and more. It is important that you review the information contained in it.

Inclusion Policy

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at [cms.bsu.edu / campus life / multicultural center](https://cms.bsu.edu/campus-life/multicultural-center).

I truly believe in this policy, and endeavor to go above and beyond in our classroom setting. If you see any behavior that goes against the above policy (even if it's mine!), please bring it to my attention (or have someone you trust do so if you are hesitant). Alternatively, you can find the Bias-Incident form at academy.bsu.edu/forms to report the incident directly to your DEI Coordinator.

Policy on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Title IX – Sexual Misconduct

Ball State University is committed to establishing and maintaining an effective, safe, and nondiscriminatory educational environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. For information about Ball State University's Interim Title IX Policy and Procedures, please visit our website. Please note that the University's policy and procedures have undergone significant revisions starting with the 2020-21 school year and ongoing.

Consistent with the University's Notice of Nondiscrimination and in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), Ball State University prohibits sexual harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities.

Dr. Casey Schultz is the coordinator for Title IX at the Indiana Academy and she can be contacted via email (cmschultz@bsu.edu) or her office in Waggoner (WA 181).

This prohibition extends to all applicants for admission or employment and to all students (any status) and all employees (any status). An individual who is found to have committed sexual harassment in violation of this policy is subject to the full range of University discipline, up to and including termination of employment or expulsion. The University will provide persons who have experienced sexual harassment with ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the University's education program and activities.

Inquiries concerning the specific application of Title IX at Ball State should be directed to Ms. Katie Slabaugh, Associate Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator in the Frank A. Bracken Administration Building, room 238, 765-285-1545, kslabaugh@bsu.edu. Persons can also contact the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20202-1328, 1-800-421-3481, ocr@ed.gov.

Student Academic Ethics Policy

Actions which include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, falsely claiming to have completed work, cooperating with another person in academic dishonesty, knowingly destroying or altering another student's work, or attempting to commit an act of academic dishonesty that violates the Student Academic Ethics Policy (<http://www.bsu.edu/associateprovost/academicethics>).

The consequences of academic dishonesty are determined on a case-by-case basis by each instructor and may include but are not limited to one or more of the following academic sanctions: informal meeting, removal from dual credit course, dismissal from the university, or other appropriate consequence.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

It is imperative to your continued success that you exhibit academic integrity at all times. This entails:

- never submitting another person's work as your own; this includes using LLM and other AI generated information, answers, or results (see: LLM and other AI Fair-Use Policy, below)
- never engage in "drylabing." (artificially manufacturing lab data and submitting it as part of a lab report)
- never cheating on quizzes and/or tests.
- following all ethical standards as described in your student handbook (see "Academic Dishonesty")

IMPORTANT: If you feel you have been unfairly accused of failing an academic integrity standard, you have the option and right to appeal to the Indiana Academy Academic Integrity board.

Please refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" portion of your student handbook. In particular, please read the "Academic Integrity Board". Remember that you always have the right to refute any accusation (or ramification dictated by your instructor) of academic dishonesty by having your case brought before the AIB. Note that if the AIB is used, its decisions are final.

For my class specifically, academic dishonesty is defined as the following:

- never submitting another person's work as your own; this includes LLM and other AI generated information (see: LLM and other AI Fair-Use Policy, below)
- never engage in "drylabing." (artificially manufacturing lab data and submitting it as part of a lab report)
- never cheating on quizzes and/or tests.
- following all ethical standards as described in your student handbook (see "Academic Dishonesty")

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Basic AI tools (spell-check, word-count, grammar, etc.) that assist with correcting errors and gathering information about your own work is not only accepted, but also encouraged!

However, knowing the limits between using LLMs (AI's and similar platforms) as a tool and using it to do work for you is important. The answer is rarely the point of work in this course. The PROCESS is what is important and replacing that process with AI does not help you and does not demonstrate to me you've learned the process.

More advanced AI tools such as LLMs (ChatGPT, LLaMa, Phi-1, etc.) that generate information or code may be used as a starting point for research or creative projects, but generated material should not (for several reasons!) be turned in as your own work. Using these LLMs can be very useful in helping you create a project and/or learn complex topics, but diligence is required to:

- ***Completely*** verify that all information provided by the LLM is accurate (this is a major problem, especially in the sciences!). Remember that these models pull non-vetted information from the internet, which will include non-expert, and sometimes malicious, sources.
 - You (and your grades) are responsible for any and all errors gathered in this manner.
- resist turning in LLM produced material as your own work. The point of being at the Academy is to use provided information as a Fall-board for your own intellect and creativity. Using these tools to help you gather ideas, or to find alternate ways to express your ideas, is both welcomed and encouraged. But make sure that you are not falling for temptation to use likely-erroneous data or logic that LLMs often provide. In other words, treat LLM generated material as you would other non-expert sources of material.
 - **Presenting AI-generated material as your own will count as plagiarism**, and will be dealt with accordingly (see Academic Dishonesty Policy, above)
 - **Use of AI or other LLM tools on exams is strictly prohibited.**

Mask Policy

There is currently no campus wide mask-mandate, but if the CDC declares another health-emergency, and BSU puts a mask-mandate in place, this policy may change. If and when masks are required by BSU campus, the Indiana Academy will then follow the same procedure.

In case of extreme COVID-19, break glass for online policy

As it is possible that we may have to re-face pandemic conditions this year, there may be periods when some (or all) of us return to masks and/or are moved to online learning due to necessity or mandate. All of the below rules apply during e-learning, but some information may be useful:

Zoom Link: <https://bsu.zoom.us/j/7784148468>, if a password is required, please use "CptHook1".

Lectures: Classes will be provided on Canvas with the same frequency and schedule of the normal school year. It is your responsibility to view these videos w/o 24hours of their posting. It is vitally important to watch them *in order*.

Homework: Homework can easily be scanned or photographed and submitted on Canvas by the due-date required.

Laboratory: Labs will be designed to be done either in a discussion format on Zoom or using simulators (PocketLabs). Any documentation (journals, reports, etc) expected can be returned to me using the same procedure as HW.

Testing: Tests will be “given” and “collected” at very specific times (TBA). Future circumstances may require different methods, but currently the procedure is as follows:

- The test will be released on Canvas at a very specific day/time that will be announced several days in advance.
- You will have a set amount of time to complete your exam (will be announced on test day, and is tied to the length of that particular test).
- Returning your test to me will be as simple as scanning or photographing your exam and emailing it back to me before the given time has expired. 504/IEP accommodations (see below) will be honored.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide to the course and may be subject to change with reasonable advanced notice as course needs arise.