

Attendance and Expectation Policies:

By attending the Academy you are committed to academic achievement. Therefore, class attendance is mandatory. If you miss an assignment, quiz, lab, or test due to an unexcused absence, you may receive a zero. For excused absences, you are responsible for completing all assignments, labs, and tests before the absence if possible. Excused absences are for illness, Academy sanctioned medical appointments, Academy-related activities as approved by the Office of Academic Life, and death in the family. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor as soon as you are aware of an excused absence. Falling asleep in class is not advised. The result is an unexcused absence from the class. You are expected to play an active role in the learning process.

If you arrive in class after I begin, you are tardy. If you are more than ten (10) minutes tardy, you earn an unexcused absence. The classroom clock will serve as the official clock. It is recommended you still come to class regardless of your lateness to learn what you can. If your tardiness is the result of necessary interaction with an adult member of the Academy community, **please bring a note from that individual.**

The best way to achieve success in this class is to pay attention and take proper notes. The homework assignments, quizzes, and tests will focus on material discussed in class AND material from the reading assignments. The textbook should serve as a complement to the in-class discussions. It provides another viewpoint and goes into more detail on many concepts. The best way to study the material is to use both your notes from class and the textbook.

During class, you are encouraged to ask questions. I may go over a topic too quickly. If so, raise your hand and stop me. I am very happy to go over something more than once or provide an extra example or two to help you understand. It is also very likely that I will make mistakes on the whiteboard or my PowerPoint slides. If you think I have made a mistake somewhere, do not hesitate to ask.

Also, I encourage you to take advantage of my office hours. Those hours are set aside for students and are a great opportunity for you to ask a question you did not get to ask in class. If you are struggling with a homework assignment or a lab write-up, please stop by. It may be that you just need a tiny push in the right direction to get going. If you find yourself completely lost on a homework set, then see me. I am happy to help you out!

Observing Sessions:

There will be opportunities, weather permitting, for daytime and nighttime viewing of celestial objects. We have available a telescope for this purpose. Labs will meet in the evening and are required sessions. As the semester continues, two or three of the evening lab sessions may be converted into observing sessions. Notice will be given in advance of these dates.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

Quizzes (12)	(180 pts) 20%
In-Class Participation	(150 pts) 15%
Moon Project	(150 pts) 15%
Lab Reports (10)	(100 pts) 10%
Tests (3)	(240 pts) 24%
Final Exam	(160 pts) 16%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> (1000 pts)100%
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The expected grade cutoffs are:

$A \geq 92\% > A- \geq 90\%$
 $90\% > B+ \geq 88\% > B \geq 82\% > B- \geq 80\%$
 $80\% > C+ \geq 78\% > C \geq 72\% > C- \geq 70\%$
 $70\% > D^*$

All scores may be adjusted to appropriately fall into the above cutoff ranges if necessary. For example, the grading scale will not become stricter. A score of 92% is always an A. Depending on the class average, there may be a situation where a score of 90% or higher is awarded an A. Announcements will be made in class if this is the case

Late Policy:

All assignments must be turned in on time. If you think that you will not be able to finish an assignment by the due date, talk to me **at least 24 hours in advance** and explain your situation. Unless you are found to be abusing the system, I will almost always grant you an extension without penalty. Most assignments, labs, quizzes, and tests are submitted through Blackboard. This process is discussed during the first week of class. It is your responsibility to properly submit all assignments.

Quizzes:

Take-home quizzes on Blackboard are given approximately every one to two weeks. You are required to work individually on the quizzes. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Tests and Final Exam:

The tests and final exam may contain multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. They are designed to test your knowledge of the material discussed in class and your problem-solving skills. Laptops and all notes must be kept closed during the tests.

Labs:

Labs are an important part of this course. They provide hands-on experience with many of the topics we discuss in class. In addition to attending and participating in the labs, each student is required to complete a lab report for all labs. Lab reports are due in the lab period following the given lab.

If you miss a lab due to an excused absence, you will be given a homework assignment to replace that week's lab report.

All lab reports must be submitted electronically. Hard copies of your lab reports will not be accepted. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Moon Project:

Over the semester you will observe the Moon's position in the sky at least 15 times. From these observations, you will be able to compute the Moon's Hour Angle and Elongation Angle, as well as answer general questions about the Moon in the Final Report packet to be provided at a later date. More information will be provided during the first lab session. Observations are due three times during the semester. Due dates will be provided in class and the final report is tentative due sometime during the last 2 weeks of class.

Participation:

Participation in both labs and lectures is a key component in your grade for this class. Your total participation grade (150 points; 15% of total course grade) is divided evenly into two parts.

1. During class, you are expected to pay attention while the instructor and other students are speaking. You are also expected to contribute to discussion questions presented during the class. Often you will be asked to take a minute or two to formulate a response to some discussion question.
2. In small group work and labs, you are expected to work WITH the rest of your group. In class ranking tasks/multiple-choice/problem-solving questions will be checked and graded on a pass/fail basis. Groups not taking the time to properly work on small group tasks will receive low participation grades.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of the Indiana Academy. All students deserve a healthy learning environment and evaluations that are based on their honest independent efforts. A clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship and learning.

You may find it useful to work in groups when completing homework sets or lab reports. Group work is highly encouraged and helps promote the learning process. However, you must turn in your own work! Copying someone else's homework assignment is cheating and will result in a zero for the assignment. Sharing data with other lab groups, unless instructed to by the instructor, is considered cheating. See your student handbook for policies related to academic dishonesty.

Laptop/Phones Policy:

You will often need a device for class activities. It is expected that you will not use your laptop/phone for emailing, random web-surfing, chatting, etc. If it is obvious that you are more focused on your laptop/phone screen than class discussion, you will lose participation points.

Dual Credit Option:

Ball State University offers 3 college credit hours to students in ASTR 100 upon completion of this Academy course. Students must earn no lower than a 'C' to receive college credit. Enrollment to the University for credit must be done at the beginning of the semester. If you need assistance with the enrollment process, please see the Guidance Office at the beginning of the semester.

Preparation & Assistance:

If you do not understand the material please ask questions in class or see or call the instructor as problems arise. Please do not wait until the exam or until you are completely lost. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and hours are listed at the top of this syllabus.

Ball State University Diversity 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](#) and through university resources found [here](#).

Indiana Academy Mask Policy:

The Indiana Academy will follow [Ball State University's mask policy](#) (see Section IV). Based on current CDC guidance recommending the wearing of face masks for all people—regardless of vaccination status—in public indoor settings in communities where the rate of coronavirus transmission is high or substantial, all employees, students, and campus visitors are required to wear a mask while inside any University building. This requirement is effective on August 9, 2021. Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear masks outdoors.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are required to wear face masks while inside campus buildings and outside when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it before referring the matter to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others.

Tentative Fall 2021 Schedule (Solar System Astronomy)

Week	Topic	Lab
August 16 – 20	Introduction to Astronomy Constellations Stellar Motions	Observing the Moon
August 23 – 27	Seasons Planetary Motions	Astronomical Distances
August 30 – September 3	Lunar Phases Lunar Eclipses	Observing the Night Sky Inside
September 8 – 10	Test #1 (September 10) Telescopes	Moon Project Help
September 13 – 17	Telescopes The EM Spectrum	Observing Session (Weather Permitting)
September 20 – 24	The EM Spectrum	Introduction to Telescopes
September 27 – October 1	Starlight	Lunar Angles
October 4 – October 8	Formation of the Solar System Test #2 (October 6)	Spectroscopy
October 13 – 15	The Sun	No Lab
October 18 – 22	The Earth Greenhouse Effect The Moon	Rotation Rate of the Sun
October 25 – 29	Mercury Venus Mars	Observing the Moon – Moon Project
November 1 – 5	Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune	Studying the Moon's Orbit
November 8 – 12	Pluto Solar System Leftovers Test #3 (November 10)	Observing Session (Weather Permitting)
November 15 – 19	Life in the Solar System Stars Beyond the Sun	HR Diagram
November 22 – 26	Thanksgiving	No Lab
November 29 – December 3	The Milky Way	Observing Session (Weather Permitting)
December 6 – 10	Galaxies Beyond our Own Cosmology	Observing Session (Weather Permitting)
December 13 – 17	Final Exams	No Lab