



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Name: Descriptive Astronomy

Course Number: AST1002

Section: 10100

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Name: Dr. Christopher Sweeney

Instructor Office Location: 350/209 Niceville Campus

Instructor Email: sweeneyc@nwfsc.edu

Course Curriculum

This course provides a comprehensive look at modern astronomy, emphasizing the use of the scientific method and the application of physical laws to understand the Universe including Earth and its environment. Throughout this course, students will develop the ability to discern scientific knowledge from non-scientific claims by using critical thinking.

Goals

Include broad learning goals such as "Students will develop an appreciation of the different genres of classical art."

Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will define terms used to measure and describe the universe.
- Students will explain the processes involved in the formation and evolution of celestial bodies over astronomical time according to different models and theories.
- Students will describe how scientific theories evolve in response to new observations and critically evaluate their impact on society.
- Students will formulate empirically testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes and phenomena.
- Students will apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument to separate science from non-science.
- Students will gather and analyze astronomical data and communicate results in graphic and written forms.

Student Expectations of the Course

Include what experiences students might expect to have as part of the course. Examples: The instructor will be available outside of class to answer questions. Participation is required.

How Student Performance will be Measured

How the instructor plans to measure student performance (essays, in-class assignments, multiple choice exams, etc.)