# ASTRONOMY 100: *Unveiling the Universe*

**Fall 2008** **Course Schedule** Online Syllabus: **www.uwsp.edu/physastr/kmenning/Astr100.doc**
D2L: **https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/**

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Instructor:** | Dr. Ken Menningen | **Office hours:** | M | T | W | R | F |
| **Office:** | B101 Science Building | 9:00am-11:00am | | | X | | X |
| **Phone:** | (715) 346-4871 | 1:00pm-3:00pm | X | | | X | |
| **email:** | Ken.Menningen@uwsp.edu | 3:00pm-4:00pm | X | | | | |
| | | By appointment | X | X | X | X | X |

**Course Prerequisites:** None.


**Required text:** *Discovering The Universe*, Comins and Kaufmann, 7th edition (available at Text Rental)

**Other required materials:** Scientific calculator (graphing capability is **not** necessary), laboratory manual (available for $6 at the bookstore), TurningPoint clicker ($8 rental fee, available at ResNet or IT Help desk).

**Course Objectives:** *Unveiling the Universe* presents the fundamental concepts required for an understanding of planetary and galactic astronomy. The principle objectives are:

- Understand the fundamental concepts regarding the solar system, stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies.
- Use simple math to explain measurements and make predictions.
- Become informed about the basic physical features of the Earth and the night sky.

**Attendance:** Lecture attendance is required only for the midterm examinations, but it is a disadvantage to miss any lectures because the lectures, demonstrations, and in-class activities will greatly enhance your ability to understand the material. Attendance to the labs is not required, but you cannot pass the course if your lab subscore is below 60%. If you are ill, please contact me ***before class*** to make arrangements. Otherwise, late assignments are not accepted. Late exams are not allowed, but in special cases you may take an exam early.

**Grading policy:** The grade you earn in this class will be based upon the five assignment types listed below. A grading scale is also given for your reference. Grades are not curved, encouraging you to work together, but I expect each student to hand in their own work. The lowest lab and homework grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Grading Scale**

| Letter | Score |
|---|---|
| A− → A | 90 – 100 |
| B− → B → B+ | 75 – 89 |
| C− → C → C+ | 60 – 74 |
| D → D+ | 50 – 59 |
| F | 0 – 49 |

**Grade Breakdown**

| Assignment | Weight |
|---|---|
| Midterm exams | 30% |
| Final exam | 20% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Labs | 25% |
| In-class activities | 5% |

**Exams:** Midterm exams are scheduled to occur on October 2, October 30, and December 2. These dates may change but it's not likely. The comprehensive final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, at 12:30pm.

**In-class activities:** On many days there will be **response questions** that will be worth points. These are designed to help you actively learn the material and to give me feedback on how you are learning. You are required to lease a clicker for $8 for the semester. This semester lease fee will be automatically added to your UWSP student bill. You will need your UWSP Student ID to lease a clicker. Clickers are available at either UWSP's Help Desk (LRC 023, for hours see www.uwsp.edu/IT/helpdesk/ ) or ResNet (Debot 068, for hours see www.uwsp.edu/it/resNet/index.aspx ). You need only lease ONE clicker for all UWSP courses that require them. Clickers must be returned before the end of finals. Students with unreturned clickers will receive an additional $39 billed to their UWSP account.

**Homework:** The homework can be handed in using the web-based Desire2Learn system that allows multiple submissions and gives instant feedback but will not allow late entries. To avoid a zero for late homework you must warn me by phone or email ***before it is due*** and make special arrangements. If you are too ill to complete the assignment, please see a doctor, and have the doctor write an excuse.

**Other assignments:** There will be one **observing project** that is due at the end of the semester (see separate sheet). There will also be occasional astronomy-related **news articles** that I will assign for you to read. I will ask you comprehension questions concerning the articles using the D2L system.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

[For a detailed course schedule with links to lecture content, see the online course schedule]

| Week | Chs. | Topics |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | The night sky |
| 2 | 2 | Heliocentric Universe |
| 3 | 2 | Galileo, Brahe, Kepler, and Newton |
| 4 | 5,7 | The solar system |
| 5 | 7 | The inner planets |
| 6 | 8 | The outer planets |
| 7 | 9,3 | Comets, asteroids and meteors |
| 8 | 4 | The nature of light |
| 9 | 10 | The sun |
| 10 | 11 | Classification of stars |
| 11 | 12,13 | The Formation of stars |
| 12 | 13 | The Death of stars |
| 13 | 13,14 | Stellar Remnants |
| 14 | 15,16 | Galaxies galore |
| 15 | 17,18 | Cosmology |

**Community Rights & Responsibilities:**

Students with special needs should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester in order to request accommodation. An Exam Accommodation Request Form is available online. Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor about the conflict within the first three weeks of class. Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity for their work in this course. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding special accommodations, misconduct, religious beliefs accommodation, discrimination and absence for university sponsored events. (For details please refer to the Community Rights & Responsibilities documents, including the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures document.)