



K-12
TEXAS TECH

Astronomy A v8.0 – Syllabus

Course Name

ASTRMY-A

Astronomy v8.0– Semester A

Course Information

This is the first semester of this two-semester course.

Journey through the universe on a stellar exploration through space and time. Discover ancient astronomy and the instruments used to investigate the properties and motion of celestial objects. Examine the different characteristics of each planet in our solar system, including atmospheric conditions, moons, and rings. Discover the small solar bodies that are moving throughout our solar system. Learn about stellar properties based on starlight and the life cycle of stars. Explore the far reaches of our universe by studying galaxies and the clues they leave us about the early universe. Lastly, learn about cosmology, including theories and concepts about our early universe, and its possible fate. Some mathematical applications will be applied at various times. This course is recommended for 11th and 12th-grade students.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor using your Canvas Inbox. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

Course Topics

After completing this course, the students should have increased knowledge of:

- Origin of Astronomy
- Distinguish between science and pseudoscience

- Laws and theories in astronomy
- Measuring astronomical distances
- Telescopes and other astronomical tools
- Astronomers and their contributions to astronomy
- Locating planets and constellations
- Discoveries in space history
- Formation of the solar system
- Gravitational influence on the position of the planets
- Planetary motion and properties
- Surface features of terrestrial planets and gas planets
- The habitable zone
- Atmospheric conditions and magnetic fields
- Cyclic changes of the Earth and Moon
- Rotation and revolution of the planets, Sun, and moon
- Earth, Moon, Sun system
- Application of planetary laws
- Moons of the planets in the solar system
- Colonizing space

Textbook and Materials

No textbooks required. All content is within Canvas.

Materials

- printer (optional)
- word-editing software
- one deflated balloon
- markers
- approximately 30 cm (12 inches) of string or yarn
- ruler or tape measure
- scientific calculator

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Canvas)
- browser (we recommend Chrome)
- supported browser plugins and settings

The following plugins and settings may be required to use our courses.

 - JavaScript enabled
 - Cookies enabled
 - Java installed
- Email

- Printing capabilities
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe](#))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- accessing online learning materials via Canvas
- Internet search engines and browsers (we recommend Chrome)
- uploading assignments into Canvas (there will be instructions for uploading assignments)

Course Pacing

This course is designed to be completed in 18 weeks.

- Print this guide and use a calendar to fill in your goal dates for completing each Module.
- To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly.
- Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week.
- Post the pace guide in a place where you and your Parent or Guardian will see it every day (on the refrigerator or next to the computer). Give yourself a check every time you complete a task, and celebrate your efforts!

Weeks	Lessons	Due Date (you write this in)
1	Checkpoint 1 01.00 Foundations of Astronomy Introduction 01.01 What Is Astronomy?	
2	01.02 Laws, Theories, and Models	
3	01.03 Astronomy Through Time 01.04 Look to the Sky	
4	01.06 Zoom in on Astronomy	
5	01.07 Space Travel: Past, Present, and Future	
6	*01.09 Foundations of Astronomy Exam	
7	02.00 Terrestrial Planets Introduction 02.01 Formation of the Inner Solar System	

Weeks	Lessons	Due Date (you write this in)
8	02.02 Terrestrial Planets Features	
9	02.03 Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets 02.04 The Goldilocks Zone	
10	02.05 The Earth-Moon-Sun System Checkpoint 2	
11	*02.08 Terrestrial Planets Exam	
12	03.00 The Outer Solar System Introduction 03.01 Formation of the Outer Solar System	
13	03.02 Properties of the Outer Planets	
14	03.03 What's the Atmosphere Like Out There? 03.04 Moons, Moons, and More Moons	
15	03.05 Small Solar Bodies of the Solar System Checkpoint 3	
16	*Final Exam	
17	Floating Vacation Week	
18	Floating Vacation Week	

Course Credit

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- formative assessments (50%)
- summative assessments (20%)
- summative final exam (30%)

Assignments are labeled as “summative” or “formative” under Grades in Canvas.

Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire 180 days after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of

essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

This policy covers any generative AI tool, such as ChatGTP, Elicit, Photo Math, etc. This includes text and artwork/graphics/video/audio, etc.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not use artificial intelligence tools to complete your assignments in this course.

If an instructor suspects that an assignment is not the work of the student, it will receive a score of zero. The instructor will message the student or provide feedback on the assignment indicating the need to schedule a one-on-one video conference, during which the student will be required to demonstrate their skills or knowledge through an alternative or mutually agreed-upon assignment. The grade of the alternate or agreed upon assignment will be determined at the instructor's discretion with the highest possible score being 70%.

If it is determined that a student has violated final exam directions on Final Exam A or CBE Set 1, the exam will be scored as zero. The student may take Final Exam B or CBE Set 2 with the highest possible score being 70%.

The incident will be reported to Texas Tech K-12 Administration and documented in the student's file. Continued violations of Texas Tech University's Academic Integrity Policy will result in the removal of the student from the program.

Student/Parent Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Canvas course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your student's progress in the course.

The following are prohibited while using the Canvas interface:

- spamming;
- hacking; and
- using TTU or Canvas email for commercial purposes;

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Canvas Inbox for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through Canvas, rather than by mail or email.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Canvas, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Canvas server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Canvas administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Canvas server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Canvas, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.