

SYLLABUS: ASTRONOMY 1010 – Fall 2019

Astronomy of the Solar System
Dr. Emmanouil (Manolis) Georgoulis

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00; Thursday 12:30 (after class)
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Class Location: Urban Life Bldg., Room #100, 140 Decatur Str SE
Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 – 12:15
Class Web Site: <http://www.astro.gsu.edu/~georgmk1/Astro1010-Fall-2019>

Required Text: [The Cosmic Perspective](#), 9th Edition; Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit (Pearson/Addison Wesley). 7th or 8th Edition (less expensive) are OK as well. The purchase of a new textbook provides access to [Mastering Astronomy](#), which has self-study activities, including the tutorials used in class. If you purchased a used textbook, you may go to the above site to purchase access. **Purchasing Mastering is not required for this class.**

Description: This is the first of a two-semester lecture plus laboratory course on Astronomy. During the Fall Semester, emphasis is placed on the physical properties of our solar system.

Objectives: The principal objectives of this course are to examine the methods that astronomers use to obtain information about celestial bodies, explore the nature of scientific research, and provide a better understanding of our place in the Universe.

Laboratory: You are required to attend the lab session for which you have registered. To pass the course, you must pass the lab. **ASTRO 1010 labs meet in Langdale Hall 715. The first labs are in the week of September 9.** Refer to the [Astronomy Labs website](#) for detailed information.

Grading: There will be four tests throughout the semester, plus a final test at the end. If you are not present for a test, you will receive a zero. I will drop the test result with the lowest grade including a missed test. There will be no scheduled makeups, only individual makeups in exceptional cases. The tests and final exam are multiple choice. The final exam is comprehensive.

Your course grade will be determined as follows: **Lab: 30%, Test average: 40%, Final exam: 30%.**

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to do their own work and to abide by the Policy on Academic Honesty discussed in [Section 1380 of the GSU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Cheating on any exam will yield a zero on that exam. **Mobile devices need to be turned off and put aside during an exam.**

Withdrawal: Last day to withdraw (W) is October 15th.

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Final Exam: December 12, 8:00 - 10:30, at the usual classroom

Additional Info: The website and this syllabus provide an indicative plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Test dates are targets and subject to change. Attendance is required in each laboratory session to receive a nonzero grade for that exercise. Attendance in lectures is strongly advised. Statistically, students who miss more than 15% of classes typically fail the course.

Lecture Notes: The lectures will consist of PowerPoint slides, laboratory demonstrations, and other audiovisual presentations. A PDF version of the PowerPoint slides, practice questions and assignments are posted in the [class website](#). A detailed schedule of classes is provided in the same site.

Assessment: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State University. Upon completing the course, please take the time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Accommodation: Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of this plan to instructors of all classes for which accommodations are sought.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University does not tolerate sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin or religion. Every student and employee in the University community has the responsibility not to engage in any unlawful harassment or discrimination. For the detailed GSU policies see the [GSU Student Code of Conduct](#), [Non Discrimination Policy](#), and the [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) documents.

Incompletes: Receiving a grade of “incomplete” – in order to receive an incomplete, a student must inform the instructor, either in person or in writing, of his/her inability (non-academic reasons) to complete the requirements of the course. Incompletes will be assigned at the instructor’s discretion and the terms for removal of the “I” are dictated by the instructor. A grade of incomplete will only be considered for students who are a) passing the course with a C or better, b) present a legitimate, non-academic reason to the instructor, and c) have only one major assignment left to finish.