

SYLLABUS: ASTRONOMY 1010 – FALL 2015

Astronomy of the Solar System

Dr. Petrus (Piet) Martens

**Office Hours:** Tues, Thurs: 11:00 – 12:00 AM, or by appointment  
**Office Location:** Room 627, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 25 Park Place (Physics & Astronomy)  
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**Email:** martens@astro.gsu.edu  
**Class Location:** South 608  
**Class Times:** Tue & Thu 9:30 – 10:45 AM  
**Web Site:** <http://www.astro.gsu.edu/~martens/ASTRO1010-2015>

**Required Text:** The Cosmic Perspective, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition; Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit (Pearson/Addison Wesley). 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (less expensive) is OK as well. The purchase of a new textbook provides access to <http://www.masteringastronomy.com>, which has valuable 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.

**Required Equipment:** A clicker, registered with GSU. On September 1st I will start using clickers for quizzes and attendance. Your clicker will serve you throughout college.

**Description:** This is the first of a two-semester lecture plus laboratory course on astronomy with an emphasis on the physical properties of our solar system for the fall semester.

**Objectives:** The principal objective 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 section for which you have registered. To pass the course, you must pass the lab. All labs meet in 528 Kell Hall. Additional information will be provided on the first day of your lab class. Labs start in the week of August 21st.

**Grading:** There will be four tests throughout the semester and a final test. If you are not present for a test, you will receive a zero. You will be allowed to drop the test with the lowest grade (including a test that is missed). There will be no makeups. 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%**

**Additional Info:** The website and this syllabus provide a general 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 all lectures is strongly recommended! All students should be aware of the University's Policy on Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

**Lecture Notes:** The lectures will consist of PowerPoint slides, laboratory demonstrations, and other audiovisual presentations. A PDF version of the PowerPoint slides will be posted on the following web site: <http://www.astro.gsu.edu/~martens/> after the completion of each class. A detailed schedule of classes is provided on the class website.