AST - ASTRONOMY

AST 2010 (PS) Descriptive Astronomy Cr. 4
Lecture course that introduces the concepts and methods of modern astronomy, the solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmology; recent discoveries about planets, moons, the sun, pulsars, quasars, and black holes. Meets General Education Laboratory requirement only when taken with Coreq: AST 2011. Offered Every Term.

AST 2011 Descriptive Astronomy Laboratory Cr. 1
Laboratory exercises and observations; includes two late evening viewing sessions. Satisfies General Education Laboratory requirement when taken concurrently with AST 2010. Offered Every Term.

Prerequisite: (AST 2010 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or AST 5010 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C) or PHY 5010 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C
Course Material Fees: $25

AST 4100 Astronomical Techniques Cr. 3
Techniques of modern astrophysics. Detectors used in astronomy for optical and infrared photons, radio and microwaves, X- and gamma rays, and neutrinos. Techniques in imaging, photometry, spectroscopy, astrometry, polarimetry, and for analyzing public data available on the web. Offered Fall.

Prerequisites: ([PHY 2180 with a minimum grade of C-]) AND ([PHY 2181 with a minimum grade of C-])
Restriction(s): Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate level students.

AST 4200 (WI) Astronomical Laboratory Cr. 2
Introduction to laboratory techniques of modern astrophysics. Optical astronomy, including measurement of the quantum efficiency of a CCD-based astronomical digital camera; measurement of the throughput as a function of wavelength of a set of standard astronomical filters; measurement of the HR diagram of a star cluster using the calibrated camera and filters. Offered Fall.

Prerequisites: ([AST 4100 with a minimum grade of D-])
Course Material Fees: $25

AST 4300 Planetary Astronomy and Space Science Cr. 3
Formation and evolution of the solar system: planetary surfaces, interiors, atmospheres, and magnetospheres; asteroids, comets, planetary satellites, and ring systems. Emphasis on using basic physics to understand observed properties of the solar system. Offered Winter.

Prerequisites: ([PHY 2180 with a minimum grade of C-]) AND ([PHY 2181 with a minimum grade of C-])

AST 5010 Astrophysics and Stellar Astronomy Cr. 3
Electromagnetic radiation and matter; solar characteristics; stellar distances; magnitudes; spectral classification; celestial mechanics; binary stars; stellar motions, structure and evolution; compact and variable stars; Milky Way Galaxy and interstellar medium; galaxies and clusters of galaxies; quasars; Hubble’s Law; cosmology. Offered Biannually (Winter).

Prerequisites: ([PHY 2140 with a minimum grade of C-] OR [PHY 2180 with a minimum grade of C-]) AND ([MAT 2010 with a minimum grade of C-])
Equivalent: PHY 5010

AST 5100 Galaxies and the Universe Cr. 3
Exploration of the world of galaxies, starting with the Milky Way and moving outward to larger scales. Basic properties of galaxies: galaxy classification, structure, evolution, observations of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), Quasar, and Seyfert galaxies. Discovery of dark matter and black holes. Cosmology: origins of the universe in a hot big bang; its expansion history including recent evidence that the cosmic expansion is accelerating; the cosmic microwave background, and the ultimate fate of the universe. Capstone course for astronomy majors. Offered Winter.

Prerequisites: ([PHY 3300 with a minimum grade of C-])