



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Big Sandy Community and Technical College

Course Syllabus

PS Number: 86149 **Semester:** Spring **Year:** 2010

Faculty Name: Dr. Robert Arts **Title:** Instructor

Course Prefix and Number: AST **Course Credit Hours:** 101

Course Prerequisites: N/A

Course Title: Frontiers of Astronomy

Catalog Course Description: A one semester introductory course for non-science majors. Topics include the life histories of stars, the nature of black holes and quasars, the origin of the universe, planets of the solar system, and the possibilities for extraterrestrial life. Observing sessions are held regularly. Credit is not given to students who have received credit for AST 191 or AST 192.

Instructor Contact Information:

Campus Location: BSCTC **Building & Room:** Pikeville College Armington Science Building, Room 214

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon, MWF

Office Phone Number: 606-218-5476 **Alternate Number:** 606-437-0103 (home)

Best Times to Call: M & W 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or F 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (office)
M-F After 5p.m. up till 9:00 p.m. (home)

- Leave a message if you call; don't assume just because you tried to call that I know that you tried to call.

KCTCS Email: rarts0001@kctcs.edu

Special Instructions: You may also contact me via my Pikeville College email address (rarts@pc.edu)

- I do not generally check email past 9:00 p.m. So, please do not assume if you send a late message that I will get it until the next day. Plan ahead if you need to ask a question.
- If your question is related to one of our assignments, please post a message in the discussion area within Blackboard; this allows each learner to see the question and response. However, if the question is of a more personal nature, please feel free to use my email address.
- Also, please at least check for a reply if you send me an email. Far too often I get the question "Did you get my email" and my response is "Yes, I sent you a reply" to which I get the response "Oh, I did not check." So, don't send me a message unless you actually care about the response.
- This is particularly important in this online course since it is unlikely that we will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face!!
- The email system within Blackboard automatically routes your message to my KCTCS email account; so feel free to use that option as well.

Supervisor Contact Information:

Name: Chris Daniel

Campus Location: Prestonsburg **Building & Room:** PSE 217

Office Phone Number: 886-7354

KCTCS Email: chris.danie@kctcs.edu

Text and Supplies:

Comins, N. F. (2009). Discovering the essential universe, 4th ed. New York, NY: W.H. Freeman.
ISBN: 978-1-4292-1797-2

Approved Course Competencies

General Education: (KCTCS General Education Competency Statements and General Education Requirements)

I. Communicate Effectively

1. Read and listen with comprehension.
2. Speak and write clearly using Standard English.
3. Interact cooperatively with others using both verbal and non-verbal means.
4. Demonstrate information processing through basic computer skills.

How Implemented in Class:

- Students in AST 101 will fulfill this competency by adequately answering with a written essay one question on each of the five examinations, by completing essay questions with each of eight homework assignments, and by completing the two required observation activities. In addition, students in AST 101 will read both lecture notes and text passages and answer examination questions about them as well as reading at least three primary and/or secondary works and use them as aids in completing required weekly research questions.

II. Think Critically

1. Make connections in learning across the disciplines and draw logical conclusions.
2. Demonstrate problem solving through interpreting, analyzing, summarizing, and/or integrating a variety of materials.
3. Use mathematics to organize, analyze, and synthesize data to solve a problem.

How Implemented in Class:

- Students in AST 101 will fulfill this competency by using critical thinking skills in their analysis of astronomy concepts. The course draws together elements from history as well as from chemistry, physics, computer science, earth science, and biology. In addition, students in AST 101 will read the supplementary web links and research course essays to further incorporate this competency.

III. Learn Independently

1. Use appropriate search strategies and resources to find, evaluate, and use information.
2. Make choices based upon awareness of ethics and differing perspectives/ideas.
3. Apply learning in academic, personal, and public situations.
4. Think creatively to develop new ideas, processes, or products.

How Implemented in Class:

- Students in AST 101 will fulfill this competency by considering in class ethical issues as they appear in the context of the history of astronomy. Several of these issues include the formation of the universe, the fate of the universe and life in the universe.

IV. Examine Relationships in Diverse and Complex Environments

1. Recognize the relationship of the individual to human heritage and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship of the individual to the biological and physical environment.
3. Develop an awareness of self as an individual member of a multicultural global community.

How Implemented in Class:

- Students in AST 101 will fulfill this competency by composing essay answers on each of the five examinations and by completing the two required observation activities.

Course Specific Competencies:

Upon completion of the course the student will have learned

- To build a world view based on scientific principles and methods
- To understand some of the methods of astronomy
- To understand about stars, galaxies, and our visible universe
- To become familiar with the fundamental physical concepts associated with astronomy

Lab Competencies: (Enter N/A if this does not apply.)

N/A

Course Outline:

Day	Date	Daily Outline
Monday	1/11/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Tuesday	1/12/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Wednesday	1/13/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Thursday	1/14/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Friday	1/15/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Saturday	1/16/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations
Sunday	1/17/2010	Getting Started: The Syllabus & Course Expectations Start Readings for "Understanding the Sky" Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]
Monday	1/18/2010	Topic = Understanding the Sky Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22] Discussion Comments for Understanding the Sky are due by midnight
Tuesday	1/19/2010	Topic = Understanding the Sky Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22] Peer Replies for Understanding the Sky Discussion Comments are due by midnight

Wednesday	1/20/2010	<p>Topic = Understanding the Sky</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Understanding the Sky is due by midnight</p>
Thursday	1/21/2010	<p>Topic = Understanding the Sky</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]</p> <p>Peer Replies for Understanding the Sky Thought Question are due by midnight</p>
Friday	1/22/2010	<p>Topic = Understanding the Sky</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]</p> <p>HW#1 for Understanding the Sky is due by midnight</p>
Saturday	1/23/2010	<p>Topic = Understanding the Sky</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]</p>
Sunday	1/24/2010	<p>Topic = Understanding the Sky</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 1 [pp. 1-22]</p>
Monday	1/25/2010	<p>Quiz #1 = Understanding the Sky (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Motions of the Planets"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p>
Tuesday	1/26/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Motions of the Planets are due by midnight</p>
Wednesday	1/27/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p> <p>Peer Replies for Motions of the Planets Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>

Thursday	1/28/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Motions of the Planets is due by midnight</p>
Friday	1/29/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p> <p>Peer Replies for Motions of the Planets Thought Question are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	1/30/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p>
Sunday	1/31/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p>
Monday	2/1/2010	<p>Topic = Motions of the Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 2 [pp. 24-41], & Appendix G-1</p> <p>HW#2 for Motions of the Planets is due by midnight</p>
Tuesday	2/2/2010	<p>Quiz #2 = Motions of the Planets (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p>
Wednesday	2/3/2010	<p>Exam #1 = Understanding the Sky and Motions of the Planets (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 90 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Light & Atoms"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p>

Thursday	2/4/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Light & Atoms are due by midnight</p>
Friday	2/5/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p> <p>Peer Replies for Light & Atoms Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	2/6/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p>
Sunday	2/7/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p>
Monday	2/8/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Light & Atoms is due by midnight</p>

Tuesday	2/9/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p> <p>Peer Replies for Light & Atoms Thought Question are due by midnight</p>
Wednesday	2/10/2010	<p>Topic = Light & Atoms</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 3 [pp. 62-68 & 89-102], Chapter 8 [p.226 "The Temperature of Stars" through p.265 "Stars are classified by their spectra"]</p> <p>HW#3 for Light & Atoms is due by midnight</p>
Thursday	2/11/2010	<p>Quiz #3 = Light & Atoms (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "The Sun"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4</p>
Friday	2/12/2010	<p>Topic = The Sun</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4</p> <p>Discussion Comments for The Sun are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	2/13/2010	<p>Topic = The Sun</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4</p>
Sunday	2/14/2010	<p>Topic = The Sun</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4</p>
Monday	2/15/2010	<p>Topic = The Sun</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4</p> <p>Peer Replies for The Sun Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>

Tuesday	2/16/2010	Topic = The Sun Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4 Thought Question posting for The Sun is due by midnight
Wednesday	2/17/2010	Topic = The Sun Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4 Peer Replies for The Sun Thought Question are due by midnight
Thursday	2/18/2010	Topic = The Sun Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 7, & Appendix H-4 HW#4 for The Sun is due by midnight
Friday	2/19/2010	Quiz #4 = The Sun (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)
Saturday	2/20/2010	Study Time
Sunday	2/21/2010	Study Time
Monday	2/22/2010	Exam #2 = Light & Atoms and The Sun (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 90 minute time limit once started) Start Readings for "The Planets" Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F
Tuesday	2/23/2010	Topic = The Planets Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F Discussion Comments for The Planets are due by midnight
Wednesday	2/24/2010	Topic = The Planets Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F Peer Replies for The Planets Discussion Comments are due by midnight

Thursday	2/25/2010	<p>Topic = The Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F</p> <p>Thought Question posting for The Planets is due by midnight</p>
Friday	2/26/2010	<p>Topic = The Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F</p> <p>Peer Replies for The Planets Thought Question are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	2/27/2010	<p>Topic = The Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F</p>
Sunday	2/28/2010	<p>Topic = The Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F</p>
Monday	3/1/2010	<p>Topic = The Planets</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Appendix F</p> <p>HW#5 for The Planets is due by midnight</p>
Tuesday	3/2/2010	<p>Quiz #5 = The Planets (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Telescopes"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89)</p>
Wednesday	3/3/2010	<p>Topic = Telescopes</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89)</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Telescopes are due by midnight</p>
Thursday	3/4/2010	<p>Topic = Telescopes</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89)</p> <p>Peer Replies for Telescopes Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>

Friday	3/5/2010	Topic = Telescopes Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89) Thought Question posting for Telescopes is due by midnight
Saturday	3/6/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Sunday	3/7/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Monday	3/8/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Tuesday	3/9/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Wednesday	3/10/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Thursday	3/11/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Friday	3/12/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Saturday	3/13/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Sunday	3/14/2010	Course Break (Call it "Spring Break" if you wish!)
Monday	3/15/2010	Topic = Telescopes Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89) Peer Replies for Telescopes Thought Question are due by midnight
Tuesday	3/16/2010	Topic = Telescopes Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 3 (pp. 68-89) HW#6 for Telescopes is due by midnight
Wednesday	3/17/2010	Quiz #6 = Telescopes (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)
Thursday	3/18/2010	Exam #3 = The Planets and Telescopes (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 90 minute time limit once started) Start Readings for "Individual Stars" Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10

Friday	3/19/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Individual Stars are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	3/20/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p>
Sunday	3/21/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p>
Monday	3/22/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p> <p>Peer Replies for Individual Stars Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>
Tuesday	3/23/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Individual Stars is due by midnight</p>
Wednesday	3/24/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p> <p>Peer Replies for Individual Stars Thought Question are due by midnight</p>
Thursday	3/25/2010	<p>Topic = Individual Stars</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapters 8 & 10</p> <p>HW#7 for Individual Stars is due by midnight</p>
Friday	3/26/2010	<p>Quiz #7 = Individual Stars (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "The Ecology of Stars"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49]</p>

Saturday	3/27/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49]
Sunday	3/28/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49]
Monday	3/29/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49] Discussion Comments for The Ecology of Stars are due by midnight
Tuesday	3/30/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49] Peer Replies for The Ecology of Stars Discussion Comments are due by midnight
Wednesday	3/31/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49] Thought Question posting for The Ecology of Stars is due by midnight
Thursday	4/1/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49] Peer Replies for The Ecology of Stars Thought Question are due by midnight
Friday	4/2/2010	Topic = The Ecology of Stars Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 9 & Chapter 2 [pp. 43-49] HW#8 for The Ecology of Stars is due by midnight
Saturday	4/3/2010	Study Time
Sunday	4/4/2010	Study Time
Monday	4/5/2010	Quiz #8 = The Ecology of Stars (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)

Tuesday	4/6/2010	<p>Exam #4 = Individual Stars and The Ecology of Stars (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 90 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Galaxies"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p>
Wednesday	4/7/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Galaxies are due by midnight</p>
Thursday	4/8/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p> <p>Peer Replies for Galaxies of Stars Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>
Friday	4/9/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Galaxies is due by midnight</p>
Saturday	4/10/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p>
Sunday	4/11/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p>
Monday	4/12/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p> <p>Peer Replies for Galaxies Thought Question are due by midnight</p>

Tuesday	4/13/2010	<p>Topic = Galaxies</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 11</p> <p>HW#9 for Galaxies is due by midnight</p>
Wednesday	4/14/2010	<p>Quiz #9 = Galaxies (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Cosmology"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p>
Thursday	4/15/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Cosmology are due by midnight</p>
Friday	4/16/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p> <p>Peer Replies for Cosmology Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	4/17/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p>
Sunday	4/18/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p>
Monday	4/19/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Cosmology is due by midnight</p>
Tuesday	4/20/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p> <p>Peer Replies for Cosmology Thought Question are due by midnight</p>

Wednesday	4/21/2010	<p>Topic = Cosmology</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, Chapter 12, & Appendix G-3</p> <p>HW#10 for Cosmology is due by midnight</p>
Thursday	4/22/2010	<p>Quiz #10 = Cosmology (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started)</p> <p>Start Readings for "Life in the Universe"</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p>
Friday	4/23/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p> <p>Discussion Comments for Life in the Universe are due by midnight</p>
Saturday	4/24/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p>
Sunday	4/25/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p>
Monday	4/26/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p> <p>Peer Replies for Life in the Universe Discussion Comments are due by midnight</p>
Tuesday	4/27/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p> <p>Thought Question posting for Life in the Universe is due by midnight</p>
Wednesday	4/28/2010	<p>Topic = Life in the Universe</p> <p>Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13</p> <p>Peer Replies for Life in the Universe Thought Question are due by midnight</p>

Thursday	4/29/2010	Topic = Life in the Universe Readings = Notes, PP, & Chapter 13 HW#11 for Life in the Universe is due by midnight
Friday	4/30/2010	Quiz #11 = Life in the Universe (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 15 minute time limit once started) Due Date for Observation Activity
Saturday	5/1/2010	Study Time
Sunday	5/2/2010	Study Time
Monday	5/3/2010	Exam #5 (Final) = Galaxies, Cosmology, and Life in the Universe (Available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.; 90 minute time limit once started) ** Last day of the course...last day to submit ANY and ALL authorized

Course Structure:

This course is being offered as an online course. An online course has no lectures or campus meetings of any kind, including office hours and assignments. Everything is done through the Internet, using web tools and e-mail, including homework assignments, and exams. There is also a scheduled observation activity to be completed at your home in order to fulfill the observation requirement for the course!

- The online Lecture Notes, Useful Terms to Know, Sample Quizzes, PowerPoint's (2 slides/page – Grayscale), PowerPoint's (2 slides/page – Color), and the Exam Essays can be found under the "Lectures" link within our Blackboard course room.
- You are responsible for the complete content of the online lecture notes, the lecture PowerPoint slides, and the readings from the selected chapters. This includes, but is not limited to, any hyperlinks (web pages, images, animations, etc.) that are contained within the online lecture notes!

Technology/Media Component:

As all of the course material is online and digital/computerized, students must have access to a computer with a reliable, high-speed internet connection.

- While unexpected computer problems will occur from time to time, it is expected that you have a computer available for this course at a variety of times and that the internet connection used is reliable and high-speed.

Service-Learning:

There is no service learning component to this course.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- Following are detailed descriptions of the evaluation components of this course:

Method of Student Evaluation:

Reading Comments:	440 points (11 @ 40 points each)
+ RC Peer Replies:	220 points (11 @ 20 points each)
Thought Questions:	330 points (11 @ 30 points each)
+ TQ Peer Replies:	220 points (11 @ 20 points each)
Homework:	440 points (11 @ 40 points each)
Quizzes:	440 points (11 @ 40 points each)
Observation Activity:	200 points (1 @ 200 points)
Exams #1, #2, #3, & #4	960 points (4 @ 240 points each)
<u>Final (Exam #5):</u>	<u>240 points (1 @ 240 points)</u>
TOTAL:	3490 points

*Reading Comments & RC Peer Reply:

Readings (comments & peer reply) are worth up to 60 points per topic and occur in two forms: comments on your readings and replying to TWO other student's postings.

You own comments (up to 40 points): Within a short time into the readings for a particular topic you are required to post a comment about what you have read thus far (if not the entire topic's content); this, very simply, needs to be your reaction to a particular section of material

- or the topic as a whole...NOT a chapter summary! Your posting should have substance and consist of a minimum of 400 words.
- Peer reply (up to 20 points): In addition, you are to respond to (comment on) TWO other students posted discussion comments by the day after the discussion comments are posted. Your response to each other needs to have substance; i.e. it should have meaning not simply an "I agree with you" sort of reply and consist of at least 100 words.
 - These, obviously, will be viewed by everyone.

There will be a specific link for each topic's discussions under the "Discussions" menu option in which you will post your comments and reply to others.

*Thought Questions + TQ Peer Reply:

Thought questions (answer & peer reply) are worth up to 50 points per topic and occur in two forms: posting your reply to the question and replying to TWO other student's postings.

- You own answer (up to 30 points): These Thought Questions are a discussion question or research topic related to each of the topics we're studying. You are responsible for researching the question online and posting an answer; sometimes the answer is more of an opinion with facts from the readings used to support your position. If you do use outside information, you will need to site where you got the information for your answer as well (Text page, Internet site, etc.). There is not a minimum number of words necessary to receive credit for these questions; rather, your score is based partially on your responses being as clear and as comprehensive as possible. You'll need to explain yourself and justify that you understand the question and answer completely in order to receive full credit for your answer.

- Peer reply (up to 20 points): In addition, you are to respond to (comment on) TWO other students posted answers by approximately three days after the answers are posted. Your response to each other needs to have substance; i.e. it should have meaning not simply an "I agree with you" sort of reply and consist of at least 100 words.
 - These, obviously, will be viewed by everyone.

There will be a specific link for each topic's thought question under the "Thought Questions" menu option in which you will post your answers and reply to others.

*** Homework:**

Homework assignments are worth up to 40 points each. There are eleven homework assignments for the semester which you must complete and turn in. Homework assignments will generally consist of open response questions related to the material within the topic studied. Your response to these questions must be comprehensive (complete) and as clear as possible.

Therefore, be certain to plan ahead when completing and submitting your homework assignments. There will be a specific link for each topic's homework under the "Homework" menu option in which you will post your completed homework.

*** Quizzes:**

Quizzes are worth up to 40 points each and will be given near the end of the time allotted for each topic. These quizzes will generally be a single open response-type question related to the topic material. Each quiz is available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. on the date scheduled. Once you begin the quiz you will only have fifteen minutes to complete it. At the end of that 15 minute time period the quiz will be locked and your answer will be final. See the online sample quizzes for a typical open response question (and answer) related to each topic. These samples may be found under the "Lectures" link within our Blackboard course room.

*** Observation Activity:**

The official course description for AST 101 indicates that "Observing sessions are held regularly." In order to comply with this requirement and keeping in mind we're running this course within an online environment, I have two at-home observation activities of which you will complete and submit ONE of this term. There is one on The Moon and one on The Sun. The observation activity is worth up to 200 points. Specifics about each activity are contained in their respective handouts. Basically, you're going to complete a series of observations and a summary for the Moon and or the Sun. These can be started at any time and are not due until the last day of the semester. If you finish the requirements sooner than that you are welcome to submit your work early....just don't turn it in late. Submission options include scanning and emailing the assignment to me or snail-mailing your completed activity. Both options are detailed in the respective activity handouts.

The second of the observation activities may be completed and submitted for course extra credit! Contact Dr. Arts directly if you'd like to explore this option.

There will be a link under the "Observations" menu option in which you can download these activities.

* Exams:

The exams (Exam #1 - #4) are worth up to 240 points each. They will generally consist of six randomly selected essay-type questions from a previously provided pool of questions; 2-3 from each topic covered by the exam. The final exam will be treated as a fifth midterm, with the same structure. Each exam is available from 12:05 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. on the date scheduled. Once you begin the exam you will only have ninety minutes to complete it. At the end of that 90 minute time period the exam will be locked and your answers will be final. See the online lecture notes for the pool of possible essay questions that will be used for each exam. These samples may be found under the "Lectures" link within our Blackboard course room.

- The time restriction for the quizzes and exams is designed to assess your knowledge of the material. You certainly have access to your notes and text which basically makes these assessments open book & open notes. As a result, a focused & fixed amount of time assures you have studied for the assessment rather than simply relying on finding the answers within your resources!

Grading Policy:

The scale below shows the relationship between your semester percent average and the letter grade you will receive. Slight deviations from this scale are possible if they seem advisable.

Grade Range	Associated # of Points
A= 100.0% - 90.0%	3490 - 3141
B= 89.9% - 80.0%	3140 - 2792
C= 79.9% - 70.0%	2791 - 2443
D= 69.9% - 60.0%	2442 - 2094
E= 59.9% - 0.0%	2093 - 0

Attendance Policy:

Seeing as this course is being delivered online, there is no official attendance policy! Work may be completed at your leisure in accordance with the due dates outlined beginning on Page 4.

- Please be aware that the course outline shows that we have assignments that fall on nearly each day of the week. The nature of the online course includes the weekends as part of the course time; however, I have limited the weekend assignments to simply studying and reading...there are no official assignments due during those days!
- I suggest that you enter the course room at least every other day, whether there is an assignment due or not, to check for announcements and to check your Blackboard/KCTCS email.
- Don't just disappear from the course room for an extended period of time and assume everything will be okay. You are responsible for the material that is due and for any announcements that get posted.
 - This warning is particularly important if you have vacation time scheduled (or you will be out of town) during any of the term. You must contact me regarding the time you will be away. You are still responsible for keeping up with your work and in making whatever arrangements necessary to continue your participation but I will try my best to work with you as long as you are forthcoming with the information and are not taking advantage of myself or the course policies.

Missed Exam Policy:

Any quiz/exam that is not attempted during the designated time (ex: a make-up quiz/exam) is subject to a different delivery format than that outlined in previous descriptions.

Late Assignment Policy:

As all the material is important to your understanding of the course you will need to make arrangements to make up or submit any missed assignments. I will only give permission for a make-up provided a valid excuse is presented within **24 hours** of the missed assignment. In addition, if you are aware of an upcoming assignment that will be missed due to prior obligations, please contact me ahead of time to make arrangements to complete or turn in any assignments that are due that day. I acknowledge that you have additional responsibilities outside of this class (work, family obligations, school functions, etc.). However, this is no excuse for missing class work and should not present too much of a problem in this online, time-flexible environment. Do not assume I will ask you to make up or submit any missed work; because I will not. It is your responsibility to contact me and make these arrangements! Finally, if you are aware that you will be unavailable on the day when an assignment is due, you are still responsible for submitting that assignment on time! This means that you basically have two options:

- (1) Submit the work early,
- (2) Understand that there will be a deduction [10% per day late] if you submit the assignment when you return (after the due date).

Withdrawal Policy:

- From the date to drop a course without a grade through mid-term, you may officially withdraw from the class and receive a grade of W. However, in the unlikely event that you wish to withdraw from the course I'd appreciate you contacting me first. I will do what I can in order to help keep you enrolled in the course; if there is anything that can be done.
- After the mid-term date through the end of class work (see Academic Calendar), I will allow you to withdraw only under extraordinary circumstance such as illness, accident, etc. If you have stopped showing up, have not contacted me, and wish to withdraw after the mid-term date, then I will not be as receptive to helping you and you may simply have to live with the consequences of your actions. You are an adult and I will treat you as such. From the same standpoint, if you treat me with the respect I deserve than I will be willing to do the same for you. Please keep an open line of communication at all times regarding your involvement in this course.

ARTICLE II - ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

<http://www.kctcs.edu/student/studentcodeofconduct.pdf>

(Referenced in the Rules of the Community College Senate, Section VII and in the Rules of the Technical College Senate, Section VII). The following information is available on the BSCTC Homepage:

www.Bigsandy.kctcs.edu go to Current Students and under Right to Know click on Student Code of Conduct. Paper copies of all the documents listed under Right to Know are also available upon request at the Admissions Office or Library on the Mayo, Pikeville and Prestonsburg Campuses.

2.1 Academic Honesty Policy

2.2.1 Information about course content criteria

2.2.3 Contrary opinion

2.2.5 Academic records

ability

2.3 Student Academic Offenses and Academic Sanctions

2.2 Academic Rights of Students

2.2.2 Information about course grading

2.2.4 Academic evaluation

2.2.6 Evaluation of student character and

2.3.1 KCTCS Academic Offenses

2.3.1.1 Plagiarism

2.3.1.2 Cheating

2.3.1.3 Student Co-Responsibility
Academic Records

2.3.1.4 Misuse or Student Falsification of

2.3.2 Academic Sanctions/Penalties of Students

2.3.2.2 Other Academic Sanctions

2.4 Student Appeals and Responsibilities

2.4.1 Student Responsibilities

2.4.1.1 Responsibility Involving Academic Rights of Students (section 2.0)

Please refer to flowchart: [Appeals in Cases of an Alleged Violation of Student Academic Rights Figure 1](#)) [2.4.1.2 Responsibility Involving Academic Offenses \(section 2.3\)](#) When a student is believed to be guilty of any of the four academic offenses (2.3.1.1 – 2.3.1.4), a student will find information concerning responsibilities of college personnel in section 2.5.2.

Safety and Security - The following information is available on the BSCTC Homepage at:

http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/safety_security/index.html

Safety Handbook v. 08-09, KCTCS Emergency Notification System Guidelines, Emergency Management in the Instructional Setting, and [Opt-in for SNAP](#) Safety Notification and Alert Process.

Center for Enrichment Resources

http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/student_support/cer/

The BSCTC Center for Enrichment Resources (CER) offers students academic assistance in all subject areas. Campus Locations: **Prestonsburg Campus:** Magoffin Building 219; **Pikeville Campus:** N204; **Mayo Campus:** C200 and 202.

Additional Information Available at the Current Student Portal

http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/current_students

Online Access

Student Services

Registration

Information

College Life

Academic Information

Right to Know

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/student_support/disability

Students with disabilities: If you are in need of an accommodation because of a documented disability, you are required to register with Disability Support Services each semester.

Contact: **Janie Beverley, Coordinator for Disability Support Services; Student Center Room 103; Ph: (606) 886-7359; Toll-free 888-641-4132, ext. 67359; Email:**

janie.beverley@kctcs.edu

Final Thoughts:

* Studying for Exams and Quizzes:

Within my online lecture notes I have provided you with sample quizzes as well as copies of ALL of the exam essays that I will use for the course. The quizzes have a key with them but the exam essays do not. DO NOT assume by simply taking or memorizing these samples that you will be able to pass the class quizzes. They are provided as examples of sample quiz question relevant to the course material NOT necessarily the question(s) you will definitely see; nor all the possible questions from that topic. Certainly those questions are good ones and they may show up on a class quiz but do not assume so. Read the text, read the notes, and generally attempt to study the material covered for each exam or quiz. In addition, as indicated, I have provided you with the possible essays for each exam. There are MANY possibilities listed for each exam and you WILL be answering 2-3 of these from each topic for any given exam (3 each for Exams #1, #2, #3, and #4; 2 each for Exam #5); for a total of six essay questions per exam. So study them ALL. No, they do not have the answers listed nor will I provided them for you. You must read and answer them for yourself! Basically, STUDY!!

Disclaimer: The schedules and policies associated with this course may be subject to revision or change as a consequence of changing circumstances or events. Reasonable notification will be provided prior to any major changes in course policies or procedures.