

Valencia College
Science Department
online course Prof.: Juan P. Rivera
CANVAS Page: <https://online.valenciacollege.edu>

Text: Discovering the Universe 11th edition by Neil F. Comins & William J. Kaufman III, ISBN-13: 978-1-319-05539-4 **E-mail:** All e-mail between you and me must be via the mail CANVAS link provided to you. If for any reason CANVAS is down then you can send me an e-mail. The alternate e-mail address is jrivera259@atlas.valenciacollege.edu. Usually CANVAS is up and running 24/7.

Course Description: An introductory survey of astronomical universe. It includes study of the earth as astronomical body, solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmological theory of universe in general. Much emphasis on unprecedented growth of knowledge in Astronomy during past decade. This is a 100% online course.

Evaluation Process: The evaluation process is based on the following table;

course evaluation			
item	exams	homework	forum
quantity	4	9	4
grade percentage	40	45	15

The grading system is as follow; A- 90 -100%, B- 80-89%, C- 70-79%, D- 60-69%, F- 0-59%.

Attendance: This course will be presented exclusively online via CANVAS with an emphasis placed on the processes of discovery, explanation, and problem-solving skills in astronomy. There is no face to face meeting in a classroom environment.

Orientation Quiz: There is a mandatory orientation quiz that you must pass in order to stay in the class. You must get a minimum score 130 out of 150 to pass. There is a second chance to pass this orientation quiz if you fail the first one.

Withdrawal: I will withdraw any students that fit any of the following criteria (1) Missing more than 3 school work (any combination of homework, exams or discussion forum). (2) Not passing the orientation quiz. Any of these offenses will be treated as a violation of the class attendance policy per Valencia Policy 4-07 on course attendance and grades.

Concerns: If you have a concern or any problem with this class. Please send me an e-mail and I will listen to your situation and find a solution that will help you. You must come to me first before going to anybody in the administration.

Make-up: There will be no make-up exams or homework. I will not accept late homework. If you have a documented institutional excuse please send me an e-mail with your proof. There is no extra credit in this course.

Cheating: I have zero tolerance for cheating. All forms of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, misuse) are prohibited as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and will be disciplined or penalized accordingly. With the first occurrence of academic dishonesty a student will receive a zero for that school work (homework, forum or exam). In the second occurrence of dishonesty the student will fail the course along with a referral to the Dean of Science and the Dean of Students.

Disclaimer: The calendar and the sequence of topics are subject to change at my discretion. It is a responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

module chapters			
week#	HW due date	Reading	Comments
week-1	8-25-2021	module-1	orientation quiz due
week-2	9-4-2021	Ch. 1 Discovering the night sky	Homework #1 due
week-3	9-9-2021	Ch. 2 Gravitation	Homework #2 due
week-4	9-15-2021	Ch. 3 Light and Telescopes	Homework #3 due
week-5	9-23-2021	Ch. 4 Atomic Physics and Spectra	Forum-1
week-6	9-30-2021	Ch. 5,6 Formation of the solar system	Homework #4 due
week-7	10-7-2021	Ch. 7 Earth and Moon	Homework #5 due
week-8	10-13-2021	Ch. 8,9,10 The Planets	Forum-2
week-9	10-20-21	Ch. 11 The Sun	Homework #6 due
week-10	10-27-21	Ch. 12 Stars	Homework #7 due
week-11	11-3-21	Ch. 13 The life of a star	Forum-3
week-12	11-10-21	Ch. 14 Death of Stars	Homework #8 due
week-13	11-17-21	Ch. 15 Black holes	Homework #9 due
week-14	THANKSGIVING		
week-15	12-1-21	Ch. 16 The Milky Way	Forum-4
week-16	FINAL	Ch. 17 Galaxies	included in Final Exam

All due dates are also shown in the corresponding modules

exams dates				
date	9-17-21	10-15-21	11-12-21	12-8-21
Assessment	EXAM-1	EXAM-2	EXAM-3	EXAM-4
chapters	1,2,3	4,5,6,7,8	9,10,11,12	13,14,15,16,17

Reminder:

1. Homework, Forums and exams closes at 11:00 pm on the date shown.
2. We are skipping chapter 9.

Table of the Book: Discovering the Universe 11th edition		
week#	topic	chapter
2	discovering the night sky	1
3	gravitation	2
4	light and telescope	3
5	atomic physics and spectra	4
6	formation of the solar system	5 & 6
7	earth and the moon	7
8	the planets	8,9,10
9	the sun	11
10	the stars	12

11	life of a star	13
12	death of a star	14
13	black holes	15
14	THANKSGIVING	
15	the milky way	16
16	galaxies	17

IMPORTANT DATES

Please write down the following important dates.

The no show reporting period is **September 1 - 10, 2021**

1. The withdrawal deadline with a "W" **October 29, 2021**
2. The term ends for this online class **December 12, 2021**
3. The day of the final exam is in the syllabus.
4. The drop/refund dateline is **August 30, 2021**

Mobile Devices: I recommend not using your phone to answer any school work in this course. You should use a computer connected to the internet to answer any school work. Valencia College offers FREE computer access from any campus to any Valencia Registered student. There are questions used in this course that uses FLASH, and are therefore not screen-reader accessible and may not work on your phone or any mobile device. If the browser you're using no longer supports FLASH, try a different browser and download the FLASH plug-in

Announcements: I will be making announcements periodically to keep you inform of the course progress. You are responsible for the content of each announcement because they form part of this course. Check for new announcements at least 3 times a week.

CANVAS Environment: In the course website there is a link to access the CANVAS TUTORIAL. All you have to do is click this link and take the CANVAS tutorial. If you have a technical problem with CANVAS you must call the help desk 407-582-5600. They are available 24/7. Sometimes when taking an Exam the CANVAS environment may misbehave. If that happens to you, just call the help desk immediately. Make sure that you read the instructions for each exam before answering any question. I don't deal with CANVAS technical problems. You are responsible to have access to CANVAS via any available computer at any time from any part of the world.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE: I will send you feedback whenever I grade your work. Some students get emotional when points are deducted from their work. Please consider that I am in charge of this course and is my responsibility to indicate the right answer to any homework or assessment question. I am trying to help you learned the correct concepts. Astronomy is an exact science and there is only one correct answer to any question. I will not tolerate offensive e-mail sent to me. As a registered student, you must assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that show respect to your professors. Any offensive e-mail to your instructor will be dealt accordingly.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with me, during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is defined as claiming as your own a paper, report, article, or speech which in whole or in part was prepared by someone other than yourself. Cheating on an exam or copying someone else's work is also a violation of this policy. A violation of this policy can result in failure of an assignment, the entire course, or your current status as an active student. Each student is expected to be informed and compliant with the college policy on academic honesty as stated in the Student Handbook.

Expected Student Conduct: Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding the general rules of

conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the course environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of the course will be held responsible. Violation of any Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Valencia Student Core Competencies: Valencia faculty have defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, ACT) that prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the college catalog. In this course, through homework, exams and projects, and any other learning activities, you will further develop your mastery of those competencies.

Computer/Equipment Use Policy: When you are logged to CANVAS you are being monitored by the appropriate personnel. Modifying any software system configuration or settings of the CANVAS system will result in a violation of the school policies. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary actions against the violator. You cannot send global e-mails to students and or faculty. The flow of e-mails is strictly between the student and me. When working in the CANVAS environment you cannot send e-mails to other students unless is cleared by me. If you are using any computer of Valencia College you must abide by the school policies. Use of computers in the departmental open lab is limited to those activities involved with preparing homework or coursework in this department and is subject to the same restriction as listed above. You are responsible to have a computer that can be connected to the CANVAS environment from anywhere in the world via the internet to complete the requirements of this course.

Student Illness

If you are unable to participate in the course due to illness, family emergency, etc., please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan to complete any missed assignments so that your learning can progress in your course. In the case of a prolonged online absence, please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan for the best course of action.

Distance Tutoring & Technology Support at Valencia

You can easily access Valencia's *free* distance tutoring and tech support from a computer, laptop or mobile device.

Distance tutoring services are provided fully online via Zoom. Through this service, you will receive real-time assistance via a Valencia tutor. Online tutoring is offered in: mathematics, sciences, accounting & economics, computer programming, EAP and foreign languages, and writing.

Online Learning Technology Support services are also available. Students can receive assistance with navigating: Canvas, OneDrive, Zoom, YouTube, and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, & PowerPoint). Support is also provided for video editing (via iMovie and MovieMaker) and converting documents from a Mac to PC. Tech support is available live (on-demand) via Zoom, by appointment, or via email. Students are encouraged to use the 24/7 Canvas Help located inside Canvas by clicking on the “Help” icon.

To get started using the Distance Tutoring and Learning Technology Support services, please visit www.valenciacollege.edu/tutoring. Through this site, you can view the schedule of tutors/tech support assistants, find available times, learn more about the services, and access a collection of supplemental resources that are available 24/7.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 8 am – 10 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 9 am – 7 pm

Contact hours per week: 3

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisite: none

Refund of fees: Please refer to [the important date paragraph](#) for the drop/refund deadline for this course.

Learning outcomes: (1) Students will be able to apply the pertinent laws of classical and modern physics to analyze problems in planetary motion. (2) Students will gain a basic understanding of the evolution and structure of planetary systems, stars, and galaxies. (3) Students will gain a basic understanding of currently dominant theories of Cosmology. (4) Students will learn historical background of the science of astronomy.

Instructional materials: besides the required Comin’s “Discovering the Universe” textbook available in the Osceola campus bookstore or online, the student must have access to a personal computer and internet access from any point in the planet during the duration of the course.

Final Exam: The student must take the final exam. Failure to take the Final Exam will result in a grade of “F”.

Student Participation: The student must allocate weekly at least 6 hours for a 3 credit course. You are expected to complete each component of this course on time. Refer to the table that describes the weekly activities. There is a deadline and a window of opportunity for each homework, forum or exams. If you missed any of the components you will get a zero.

Revised by: Prof. Juan P. Rivera: July 7, 2021.