

VALENCIA COLLEGE
Science Department
Astronomy online course
Professor: Juan P. Rivera
CANVAS Page: <https://online.valenciacollege.edu>

Text The Cosmic Perspective loose leaf text with Modified Mastering Astronomy, 9th Edition by Bennett, Donohue, Schneider and Voit (**ISBN: 9780135720943**), The package contains an **access code**. Both are a requirement of this course, otherwise you will be placing yourself at risk of failing this course or getting a low grade. The hardcover version is known as THE COSMIC PERSPECTIVE 9th edition. The book and the access code is a requirement of the West Campus Science Division.

E-mail: All e-mail between you and me must be via the mail-message inbox 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@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. I will make emphasis on the unprecedented growth of knowledge in Astronomy during past decades. This is a 100% online course.

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

Course Evaluation			
	homework	exams	discussion
grade percentage	40	30	30
quantity	13	4	10

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 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 or forum. I will not accept any late work. If you have a documented institutional excuse please send me an e-mail with your proof.

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#	Reading	topic
week-1	Orientation week module	introduction to astronomy course
week-2	Chapters 1 & 2	introduction to our universe (modern view)
week-3	Chapters 3 & 4	celestial navigation, motion, energy, gravity
week-4	Chapters 5 & 6	light, matter and telescopes
week-5	Chapters 7, 8 & 13	planets, our solar system and other planetary systems
week-6	Chapters 9 & 10	earth, other terrestrial worlds and planetary atmosphere
week-7	Chapters 11 & 12	Jovian planets, asteroids, comets and their orbits
week-8	Chapters 14 & 15	surveying the stars and our sun
week-9	Chapters 16 & 17	star stuff
week-10	Chapters 18	the bizarre stellar graveyard
week-11	chapter 19	our galaxy
week-12	chapter 21	galaxy evolution
week-13	chapter 22	the birth of the universe
week-14	THANKSGIVING	
week-15	chapter 23	dark matter & energy and the fate of the universe
week-16	FINAL EXAM	

Module Readings & Activities		
	Prof. Juan P. Rivera	
week#	academic work	
week-1	icebreaker	orientation quiz
week-2	forum-1	HW-1 CH-1 & CH2
week-3	forum-2	HW-2 CH-#3 & CH-4
week-4	forum-3	HW-3 CH-5 & CH-6
week-5	Exam-1	HW-4 CH-7, CH-8 & CH-13
week-6	forum-4	HW-5 CH-9 & CH-10
week-7	forum-5	HW-6 CH-11 & CH-12
week-8	exam-2	HW-7 CH-14 & CH-15
week-9	forum-6	HW-8 CH-16 & CH-17
week-10	forum-7	HW-9 CH-18

week-11	exam-3	HW-10 CH-19
week-12	forum-8	HW-11 CH-21
week-13	forum-9	HW-12 CH-22
week-14		THANKSGIVING
week-15	forum-10	HW-13 CH-23
week-16		exam-4 (final)

Exam Schedule		
	chapters	due date
Exam-1	1,2,3,4,5,6	9-21-21
Exam-2	7,8,9,10,11,12	10-12-21
Exam-3	13,14,15,16,17,18	11-2-21
Exam-4	19,21,22,23	12-8-21

All due dates are shown in the corresponding modules.

1. The no show reporting period is **September 1 - 10, 2021**
2. The withdrawal deadline with a "W" **October 29, 2021**
3. The term ends for this online class on **December 12, 2021**
4. Day and evening classes ends on **December 12, 2021**
5. The day of the final exam is in the syllabus.
6. 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. You must check at least 3 times per week during the duration of this course for new announcements.

CANVAS Environment: In the course website there is a link to access the CANVAS TUTORIAL. All you must 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 oversee this course and is my responsibility to indicate the right answer to any work 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 has defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, and 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.

Contact hours per week: 3

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisite: none

Refund of fess: Please refer to the paragraph on important dates 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 Bennett et al textbook available in the west campus bookstore or online and the access code, 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