

Department of Astronomy & Planetary Science Astronomy 392– Astrophysics: Galaxy and Cosmology Spring 2022

Course Information (BBLearn tab: Contacts & Hours)

Meeting Times & Location: TTh 12:45 – 2:00 pm, HLC rm 4108

Class Zoom Link:

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/81164561944?pwd=TndLMVVqNlluUERabFpzb2pOM0JlZz09>

Meeting ID: 811 6456 1944

Password: 123456

Credit: 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Chien

Email: Lisa.Chien@nau.edu

Office: Bldg. 19, Rm. 311

Office hours on Zoom: **MW 12:00 — 1:00pm**

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/86997976680?pwd=YytmaVNrOEVOdWNCN0JsK1dyNnNQZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 9797 6680

Password: 946182

Email communications and zoom strongly preferred first, and please give me 24 hours to reply. I will also be in my office on Mon & Wed 12:00 — 1:00pm, Bldg 19, Rm 311, but please let me know that you are coming first.

Grader: Michelle Kearney (mlk338@nau.edu)

Course Prerequisites

PHY263 and AST280 (PHY265 and AST391 preferred)

Course Description & Student Learning Outcomes

This course covers the physical properties of galaxies, including the Milky Way)— galaxy structure, formation, dynamics, and distribution in the universe. The last section of the course covers basic fundamentals of theoretical and observational cosmology. If time permits, related topics such as dark matter and active galactic nuclei will also be discussed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to

- i) analyze the structure of the Milky Way, disk and elliptical galaxies in scientific forms;
- ii) explain dynamics of disk and elliptical galaxies and matter within;
- iii) interpret observational results and deduce into relations in extragalactic astronomy;
- iv) describe the large-scale distribution of galaxies and the observations that support the Big Bang Cosmology;

- v) derive and interpret the fundamental equations of the Big Bang Cosmology;
- vi) be prepared to comprehensively read professional articles in journals such as *Annual Reviews of Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *Astrophysical Journal*, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

This will be a lecture course that includes in-class exercises, reading assignments, group project, and homework of writing small codes and using programs, including Microsoft Excel, to plot and interpreting the results of those programs.

Textbook & REQUIRED Materials (BBLearn tab: Syllabus & Info)

- *Galaxies in the Universe*, 2nd Ed., by Sparke and Gallagher III, 2014 Cambridge University
- *An Introduction to Modern Cosmology*, 3rd Ed. by Liddle, 2015 Wiley
- **Calculator**
- **Laptop** or an accessible computer
- **Programming/graphing software** of your choice (free! See <https://in.nau.edu/its/software/>)—**Microsoft Excel, MATLAB, Python, Mathematica, etc.**

Assignments & Grading System

Classes Missed	Effect on grade	Assessment	Points	Grade	Score
≤ 3	None	Attendance & Participation	50	A	585 - 650
4 — 6	Lowered by 5%	In-class work & Homework	300	B	520 - 584
≥ 7	Lowered by 10%	Midterm Exam	100	C	455 - 519
		Group Project	100	D	390 - 454
		Final Exam	100	F	0 - 389
		Total	650		

i) Attendance & Participation:

- **Attendance is taken every class and you are responsible for signing in.** Missing class will affect your grade according to the policy above. Documented illness and institutional excuses will be accepted.
- Please bring your calculator and laptop (with programming/graphing software) to class whenever you can.
- **I ask that you participate in-class at least once every class (ask a question, answer a question, make some intelligent, sensible sounds, etc),** and I will keep track of that to make sure that everyone is participating and at the same pace. **Asking at least one question is especially required when we have a guest lecturer in the class.**

ii) **Reading assignments:** The first (Ch. 2-3) and the last part (cosmology) of the materials require a lot of physics and math, so in order to keep up with the class, **I strongly encourage you to read the assigned material before coming to class.** Coming to class prepared is also crucial since many of in-class exercises depend on your reading background. If you haven't taken a class that covers the basics (*i.e.* PHY 263, 321 and PHY 391), come work with me in person when you have difficulties.

iii) In-class work & Homework:

- **You cannot make up the in-class exercise if you miss the class.** In-class exercises often will become your homework assignment. Late assignments will be accepted only with my *previous* permission. **No credit will be awarded for homework after it is due.**
 - I encourage you to work with other students on the assignments, but **you must turn in your work in your own words, including any programming/plotting codes you wrote** (see Academic Integrity Policy below). Homework that is copied or suspiciously similar will receive a zero for *all* students involved.
 - In order to receive full credit for computing problems, you need to turn in both a paper copy of the code and any output. Any plots must have the *axes labeled, with units*. Your code needs to be *commented*. At the very least, the comments should include your name and the date, and what units each variable is carrying.
 - This is the biggest part of your grade, so please **expect constant assignments and dues, and heavy workload during the semester**. If you have not taken a class that covers the basics (PHY 265, PHY 321 etc), come work with me in person when you have difficulties. I do not drop any in-class work or homework.
- iv) **Exams:** Exams will consist of both qualitative and quantitative questions. Makeup exams are not given except in extreme circumstances, and you *must* provide documentation and arrange with me to take it at a different time before the exam. The necessary equations and constants will be provided on the exam.
- v) **Group Project:** *After midterm exam*, you will choose a group of 4 people and a project on a topic related to any course materials or current research. an one-page outline with bullets (single line-spacing, figures and references) and make a presentation during the scheduled classes. We will determine the order of presentation a week before. We will determine the order of presentation a week before. Report is due the time of your presentation. There will be intermediate deadlines to make sure that you are making sufficient progress.

Brief Learning Guide

i) Be proactive and ask questions.

Extragalactic/galactic field is a very much ongoing research, and it is an excellent field to apply fundamental physics. The materials are not hard but require patience, which will in turn repay with you lots of fun and accomplishment. Many difficulties may rise simply due to not knowing some *jargons* (definitions, symbols, names etc). But as long as you are patient and willing to learn, you can be an excellent extragalactic astronomer as well!

ii) Think big and accept approximations.

You will find that there are only a few “principles” or “laws” in extragalactic/galactic research; most of the time the best we can do is “formulas” or “relations”. This is simply because all the knowledge is empirical, or based on observations, and observations can be limited due to technology or natural conditions. So many times the “relations” can still be evolving, and we approximate many calculations, and so, you have to accept that. In this field, it is not like physics or chemistry or math, where we can find beautiful and precise formula and rules to describe what we see.

iii) Keep progressing and find your resources.

The Universe is so big (like a puzzle) and there is no reason to believe that I know *everything*. I will do my best to guide you to the galaxies and the Universe, and provide you ways to resources, but at times we may have to learn about new observations or theories together. Please feel free to share and participate, and do not worry to make mistakes. We all learn and advance from making mistakes.

Respect for Diversity

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you. I am NAU Safe Zone certified.

Class Tentative Schedule

Week		T	Th	Text	Topic
1	Jan	11		Ch 1.1-2	Review of stars & Intro to our Milky Way
			13	Ch 1.2-3	Intro to our Milky Way & other galaxies
2		18		Ch 2.1	The solar neighborhood
			20		
3		25		Ch 2.2.1-2	The stars in the Galaxy- distances & vertical structure
			27	Ch 2.2.3-4	The stars in the Galaxy- star clusters, bulge & nucleus
4	Feb	1		Ch 2.3	Galactic rotation
			3		
5		8		Ch 2.4	Milky Way meteorology- the interstellar gas
			10		
6		15		Ch 3.1	Orbits of the stars under gravity
	Feb		17		
7		22		Ch 3.2	Two-body relaxation
			24	Ch 4.1-2	Satellites of Milky Way & spirals of the Local Group
8	Mar	1		Ch 4.5	The past and future of the Local Group
	Mar		3	MIDTERM EXAM: Ch1—4	
9		8		Ch 5.1	Star light of spiral galaxies
			10	Ch 5.2-3	Gas and masses of disk galaxies
10	SPRING BREAK				
11		22		Ch 5.4-6	Disk galaxies: sequence, spiral arms, centers
			24	Ch 6.1	Photometry of elliptical galaxies
12		29		Ch 6.2	Motions of stars in elliptical galaxies
			31	Ch6.3-4	Elliptical galaxies: stars, gas, dark matter, black holes
13	Apr	5		Ch 1-2	A brief history of the Universe and observational cosmology
			7	Ch 3	Newtonian gravity
14		12			
			14	Ch 4	The geometry of the Universe
15		19			
			21	Ch 5	Simple cosmological models
16	Apr	26			GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION I
			28		GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION II
17	May	5			FINAL EXAM: 12:30—2:30pm

Academic Deadlines

- ADD/DROP deadline: Jan 20
- WITHDRAWAL deadline (without petition and fee): Mar 21

COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

You **MUST** wear a mask covering your nose and mouth at all times in our classroom. Keep social distancing of at least 6 ft with your classmates. Additional information about the University's response to COVID-19 is available from the **Jacks are Back!** web page located at <https://nau.edu/jacks-are-back>.

University Policies

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

Simply two words— no tolerance. *All students* involved will receive zero points on that assignment or exam. If cheating/plagiarism continue, you will receive an F in the class and the Dean's office will be notified.

- [Student Institutional Excuses Policy](#)

Also see the new [Faculty Notification Request form](#) if you must miss classes.