

Course: AST 115
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisite: None

Course Title: Basic Astronomy
Department: Physics, Astronomy, & Materials Science

General Education Area:

NATURAL WORLD - Physical Sciences (*GEC 108 (w/lab) / GEC 109 (no lab)*)

Information submitted by a department representative on 4/30/2021 3:31:15 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center

Typically Offered During:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|
| Fall Full Semester: | YES | Fall 1 st Block: | NO | Fall 2 nd Block: | NO |
| Spring Full Semester: | YES | Spring 1 st Block: | NO | Spring 2 nd Block: | NO |
| Summer: | NO | | | | |

Typical Instructional Modality:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------|----|
| Traditional (seated): | YES | Blended: | YES | Internet: | NO |
| Online Video: | NO | Web Conference: | NO | | |

May Also Count Toward Department Offering:

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------------|----|
| Major: | YES | Minor: | YES | Certificate: | NO |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------------|----|

Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (Without using the catalog description)?

In astronomy, we are the detectives of space. No one witnessed our galaxy forming, and so we use evidence of how it is now to determine how it came to be. This class is about science and the application of critical thinking to astronomy. We will learn about our universe, underlying physical principles that govern it, current techniques for studying our universe, and its connections to our daily lives. If seeking astronomy without a laboratory experience, check out AST113 instead.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Most of us will have little interaction with science during their university studies, yet critical thinking skills are more important than ever in this era of information overload via the internet. Discerning credible and authentic sources through the sea of misinformation is a vital skill. As part of this course, we will question where data come from and how they are used. In astronomy, investigating new ideas and discerning between them is our key to learning about things beyond Earth.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Students in programs where critical thinking and problem-solving are an important part of their career will especially find this course beneficial. Students of all backgrounds and degree programs will find aspects of this course helpful.

Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)

Historical and descriptive aspects of astronomy; topics of current interest related to space science. Laboratory consists of observations with telescopes and of experiments pertinent to the field. May only receive credit for one of AST 113, AST 114, or AST 115.