

SYLLABUS FOR ASTRONOMY 101, FALL 2009

COURSE TITLE: CELESTIAL CLOCKWORKS
WEBSITE: www.pa.msu.edu/courses/ast101
LOCATION: Abrams Planetarium
TIME: Tuesday 6:40 pm – **7:40 pm**
CREDITS: 1

INSTRUCTOR: David Batch, Ph.D.
Abrams Planetarium
355-4676
dbatch@msu.edu

GRADING SCHEME: Daily quizzes / Take-homes 30%; Midterm 30%; Final Exam 40%
For info on grading and attendance, see AST101 webpage.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Planisphere & Astrolabe (\$20.00 total, available at planetarium)
Red Flashlight (student provided)

WEEK #	DATE	TENTATIVE TOPIC
1.	Sept. 8	Constellations, Star Maps, Celestial Sphere, Horizon Coordinates
2.	Sept. 15	Constellations, Rotation of Earth, Sky Grid
3.	Sept. 22	Planisphere
4.	Sept. 29	Sky Coordinates
5.	Oct. 6	Sun's Annual Motion, Sidereal and Solar Time
6.	Oct. 13	Revolution of Earth, Ecliptic, Zodiac, Seasonal Constellations
7.	Oct. 20	Introduction to Astrolabe
8.	Oct. 27	Midterm
9.	Nov. 3	Astrolabe, continued
10.	Nov. 10	Determination of Latitude
11.	Nov. 17	Latitude, continued
12.	Nov. 24	Introduction to Timekeeping, Time Zones, Longitude
13.	Dec. 1	Determination of Longitude
14.	Dec. 8	Longitude, continued; Review
15.	Dec. 15	Final Exam, in planetarium at 6:40 p.m.

***** MSU OBSERVATORY PUBLIC OBSERVING NIGHTS FOR FALL SEMESTER *****

Sept. 25, 26; Oct. 23, 24; Time: 9-11 pm., weather permitting.

Observatory is located at the corner of Forest and College roads, approx. 2 miles south of planetarium.