

SYLLABUS FOR ASTRONOMY 101, FALL 2010

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: Take-homes / quizzes 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. 7	Constellations, Star Maps, Celestial Sphere, Horizon Coordinates
2.	Sept. 14	Constellations, Rotation of Earth, Sky Grid
3.	Sept. 21	Planisphere
4.	Sept. 28	Sky Coordinates
5.	Oct. 5	Sun's Annual Motion, Sidereal and Solar Time
6.	Oct. 12	Revolution of Earth, Ecliptic, Zodiac, Seasonal Constellations
7.	Oct. 19	Introduction to Astrolabe
8.	Oct. 26	Midterm
9.	Nov. 2	Astrolabe, continued
10.	Nov. 9	Determination of Latitude and Longitude by the Stars
11.	Nov. 16	Planetary Motions
12.	Nov. 23	Moon's Visibility and Motions
13.	Nov. 30	Milky Way and Deep Sky
14.	Dec. 7	Precession; Review
15.	Dec. 14	Final Exam, in planetarium 6:40 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

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

Sept. 17, 18; Oct. 15, 16; Time: 9-11 pm., weather permitting.

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