

SYLLABUS FOR ASTRONOMY 101, FALL 2011

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
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1.	Sept. 6	Constellations, Star Maps, Celestial Sphere, Horizon Coordinates
2.	Sept. 13	Constellations, Rotation of Earth, Sky Grid
3.	Sept. 20	Planisphere
4.	Sept. 27	Sky Coordinates
5.	Oct. 4	Sidereal and Solar Time
6.	Oct. 11	Revolution of Earth, Ecliptic, Zodiac, Seasonal Constellations
7.	Oct. 18	Review
8.	Oct. 25	Midterm
9.	Nov. 1	Astrolabe Introduction
10.	Nov. 8	Astrolabe, continued
11.	Nov. 15	Determining Latitude by the Stars
12.	Nov. 22	Determining Longitude by the Stars
13.	Nov. 29	Moon's Visibility and Motions
14.	Dec. 6	Precession; Review
15.	Dec. 13	Final Exam, in planetarium

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

Sept. 9, 10; Sept. 30, Oct. 1; Nov. 4, 5; Time: 9-11 pm., weather permitting.

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