

# SYLLABUS FOR ASTRONOMY 101, FALL 2012

COURSE TITLE: CELESTIAL CLOCKWORKS  
WEBSITE: [www.pa.msu.edu/courses/ast101](http://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](mailto:dbatch@msu.edu)

GRADING SCHEME: Homework 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)

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WEEK #	DATE	TENTATIVE TOPIC
1.	Sept. 4	Constellations, Star Maps, Celestial Sphere, Horizon Coordinates
2.	Sept. 11	Constellations, Rotation of Earth, Sky Grid
3.	Sept. 18	Planisphere and Horizon Coordinates
4.	Sept. 25	Earth Coordinates, Sky Coordinates
5.	Oct. 2	Sidereal and Solar Time
6.	Oct. 9	Seasonal Motion of the Sun and Constellations
7.	Oct. 16	Revolution of Earth, Ecliptic, Zodiac. Midterm Review
8.	Oct. 23	Midterm
9.	Oct. 30	Astrolabe Introduction
10.	Nov. 6	Astrolabe, continued
11.	Nov. 13	Determining Latitude by the Stars
12.	Nov. 20	Determining Longitude by the Stars
13.	Nov. 27	Determining Longitude by the Sun
14.	Dec. 4	Precession. Final Review
15.	Dec. 11	Final Exam, in planetarium

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

Sept. 21, 22; Oct. 19, 20, 2012; Time: 9-11 pm., weather permitting.

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