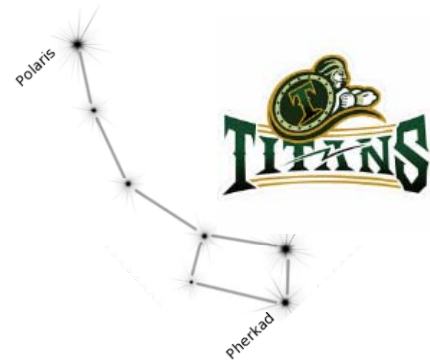


Astronomy Syllabus

Course Introduction and Requirements 2014-15



Instructor: Mr. Liddell
Tahquitz High School
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COURSE CONTENT AND GOAL: This introductory course of Astronomy covers the history of astronomy studied from early civilizations to the present. You will learn about the scale, structure, and origin of the Universe from the largest scale down to the formation, structure and evolution of individual stars. We will include a brief (and mostly non-mathematical) survey of the Big Bang and Relativity theories and the role of space-time, mass-energy, and the four fundamental forces that shape the Universe we see before us. By the end of the course, you will be able to set up and use a telescope or binocular to observe the planets, moons, stars, and even galaxies with ease. You will be able to identify the planets and most major constellations in the night sky and you will have a working knowledge of the geography of the moon which will enable you to enjoy observing and photographing it on your own. These practical skills will bring you life long pleasure and hours of enjoyment – for the wonderful show in the sky that changes every night!

TEXTBOOK: Astronomy: Journey to the Cosmic Frontier, 5e, Fix, McGraw Hill Publishing Company.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- **Syllabus:** returned signed by student & parent/guardian
- **Composition Notebook & Index Cards:** for Notes & Labs (spiral notebooks not recommend)
- **Writing Utensils:** pencils are preferred for calculations
- **Scientific Calculator:** must have LOG key, (recommend Texas Instruments TI-30Xa or similar)
- **NOTE:** Cell Phone's, and other digital devices are not to be used in class.

GRADING POLICY: There will typically be weekly lecture notes, class work, and starters. Quizzes will generally be bi-weekly with one test per unit. Labs and Current Astronomy Articles will also be assigned. These assignments will require the student to use lab data, newspapers, internet, or other resources outside of class time to do research and document it scientifically. Homework will be given weekly and will be due within 7 days. If a student is going to be absent on an assignment due date, prior arrangements should be made. Any late work turned in within one week of due date will count for half credit; after one week it will count as zero.

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A 89-80% = B 79-70% = C 69-60% = D Below 60% = F

Grades are calculated by a total point method and then converted into percent. Student progress can be checked on Aeries and will also be given out during the triad.

Assignment Type	% of Final Grade
Test & Quarter Exams	35%
Class work, Lab work, & participation	40%
Homework & Current Science	15%
Quizzes	10%

TESTS AND QUIZZES: Tests are an essential component in measuring the success of the student and will be given periodically throughout the year with advance notice. Quizzes will be given biweekly. Test and quizzes can only be made-up once. If a student must miss an exam or quiz for any reason **it is the responsibility of the student to notify me as soon as possible.** Make-up tests are only given during lunch or before/after school.

CLASS WORK/PARTICIPATION /ATTENDANCE: In order for students to be successful they MUST attend class. Completed class work is often graded by stamp point system and totaled every three weeks. Extra credit participation stamps are also given to those students who come to class focused, prepared, and get involved in the discussion. If you are absent, it is the students' responsibility to see me about the notes/make-up work & check the board for the homework. Students may not make up work from unexcused absences.

OBSERVATION NIGHTS AND LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS:

Observation of the night sky and recording significant scientific data is a principal requirement of this course. I will conduct scheduled night observations in the Tahquitz High School Stadium. The stadium offers a clean, dry AstroTurf surface to work on, bathrooms are provided, and the access to the stadium is limited for student safety. Students who are unable to attend will be given an alternative research project.

HOMEWORK: Astronomy requires about 30-60 minutes per night for homework plus time needed to prepare for tests. The homework will usually consist of reading, charts, and word problems. Your notes and homework should be studied, along with in any lab charts from labs and observations. The homework will reinforce class activities and help guarantee understanding. Late homework will lose 50% of its total value weekly.

TARDY POLICY: It is very important for students to be in class on time. Students earn points by completing the daily Starter Activity and quizzes during the first 5-10 minutes of class. The school tardy policy will be enforced.

<u>CLASSROOM RULES:</u>	<u>SCHOOL RULES:</u>
1. Be Respectful	1. No food, drink, or gum in class or lab
2. Be on Time	2. Follow all School and Lab Behavioral Expectations
3. Be Focused	3. Follow all School and Lab Dress Codes
4. Be Prepared	4. Cell Phones must be turned off
5. Be in attendance everyday	5. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Strive to learn** and not just for a letter grade.
- **Plan ahead & ask for help!** Read and complete assignments, and feel free to ask Mr. Liddell questions
- **Read the textbook!** The additional information you will help you understand the notes more.
- **Be responsible!** Never leave your composition notebook at home.

PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS SIGNED BY STUDENT AND YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN TO MR. LIDDELL BY _____ FOR HOMEWORK CREDIT.

By signing this document I signify that I understand that I am held accountable for my actions in this class; therefore I will be focused, prepared, and ready to work everyday. I have read and understand all course expectations and consequences and the syllabus. I will maintain Successful Science behavior.

Student Signature

(Date)

I, the parent/guardian of the above student, have read and understand the course syllabus, and all classroom expectations. I realize that in order for my student to be successful I must provide them with educational support. I know that if I have questions about my student's grade I can call/text Mr. Liddell at (951) 330-2882 or by e-mail at tliddell@hemetusd.org. I understand that my student will be notified of any changes to this syllabus, and that I can view homework and course documents from the school website.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Contact Phone Number

(Date)