Course Syllabus

Jump to Today ✎ Edit

ASTR-1115-501, CRN 81174, Fall 2026

Faculty Contact Information

Name: Dr. Amanda Truitt (she/her)

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Virtual Office Hours (JOIN ZOOM (https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88519509358?pwd=yCTGUOpwKHCzTMDG5UMk6pxajkIsbH.1) passcode ASTRO**):** Tues/Wed 11-11:30 am **or by appointment**

BOOK A MEETING WITH ME

https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/ (https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/) 10min (https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/10min)

https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/ (https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/) 30min (https://cal.com/amanda-truitt-st4rryid/30min)

Welcome to Astronomy 1115, Introduction to Astronomy Lecture!

My name is Dr. Amanda Truitt, and I will be the instructor/professor for this course. I have a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Arizona State University, with a background in modeling stellar evolution based on the diverse chemical composition of stars and simulating the evolution of exoplanet habitable zones.

My preferred contact method is by email or Canvas messages. If you haven't received a response from me within **48 hours** during the regular work week or within **72 hours** if it's a weekend/holiday, please consider sending a follow-up message. Always feel free to contact me with questions or concerns about the coursework or content! I am happy to set up personal appointments as needed.

Required Textbook & Technology

Great news: your course material is free! All necessary course materials are available free of charge with fully digital (OER) options. We will be using the *OpenStax* ***Astronomy*** textbook.

All other course materials, including assignments, lecture slides, and supplemental materials will be

available directly through the Canvas shell.

Textbook Title: Astronomy (2e) (https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy-2e)

The second edition of the textbook has been updated according to recent discoveries and includes a significant amount of new art and images.

The 1st edition of the textbook is only available to view online (as a webpage), the 2nd edition is available to download as a free PDF. You can use either first or second edition.

Authors: Andrew Fraknoi, David Morrison, Sidney C. Wolff

Publisher: *OpenStax* (View for Free Online or Download a PDF)

Publication Date: October 13, 2016 (first edition) / March 9, 2022 (second edition/update) ~ Web Version Last Updated: Apr 23, 2026

This is an entirely online class, so a computer and a reliable internet connection are both necessary to be successful in this course. This includes the ability to access online activities and submit homework and discussion assignments directly through Canvas. It is imperative that you will be able to access the posted lecture material each week, watch supplemental videos, and complete your assignments online. You may need to be able to open/edit word documents and/or PDF files. ALL PDF and word documents provided in this class are ADA accessible. For the essay assignment, through Google Docs, you will need to create a Gmail account to access the appropriate document template (if you don't have an account already, it is free to create one).

Course Description

This course surveys observations, theories, and methods of modern astronomy at a descriptive level. We will discuss the progression of astronomy through history and how scientific theories have been developed and refined over time. This course is predominantly for non-science majors, aiming to provide a conceptual understanding of the universe and the basic physics that governs it. Due to the broad nature of this course, the specific topics and concepts covered may vary. Commonly presented subjects include the general movements of the sky and history of astronomy, an introduction to basic physics concepts like Newton’s and Kepler’s laws of motion, and modern details and facts about celestial bodies in our solar system, as well as how to differentiation between them (e.g. Terrestrial vs. Jovian planets, exoplanets, the practical meaning of "dwarf" planets, asteroids, comets, and Kuiper Belt/Trans-Neptunian Objects). Beyond this we will also cover stars and galaxies, star clusters, nebulae, black holes, galaxy clusters, dark matter, and dark energy. Finally, we will touch on concepts of cosmology and astrobiology, both the structure and history of the universe, as well as the ongoing search for life beyond our own home planet.

Credit-hour statement: This course meets New Mexico General Education Curriculum Area 3: Physical and Natural Sciences. This is a 3 credit-hour course delivered in an asynchronous/online modality over 16 weeks. The expectation is that each credit hour corresponds to a minimum of 3 hours of engagement per week, so you should expect to spend AT LEAST **9 hours per week** on coursework for this class. This may include discussions, reading the text, reviewing lecture videos & supplemental materials, taking notes, and completing assignments.

Major Topics & Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1	Discuss the night sky as seen from Earth, including coordinate systems, apparent daily and yearly motions of the sun, Moon, stars, and their resulting astronomical phenomena.
2	List and apply the steps of the scientific method.
3	Describe the scale of the Solar System, Galaxy, and the Universe.
4	Explain different telescope designs and how telescopes and spectra are used to extract information about Astronomical objects.
5	Describe the formation scenarios and properties of solar system objects.
6	Describe gravity, electromagnetism, and other physical processes that determine the appearance of the universe and its constituents.
7	Describe methods that planets are discovered around other stars and current results.
8	Describe the structure, energy generation, and activity of the sun.
9	Compare our sun to other stars and outline the evolution of stars of different masses and its end products, including black holes.
10	Describe the structure of the Milky Way and other galaxies and galaxy clusters.
11	Describe the origin, evolution, and expansion of the universe based on the Big Bang Theory and recent Astronomical observations.
12	Describe conditions for life, its origins, and possible locations in the universe.

Additional Course Information

This course is online and asynchronous. We do NOT have a designated meeting time or place for this class, but I am available for individual student appointments as needed. Because this course is asynchronous, your general expectation for responses from me is that I will always try to respond as soon as possible to any student messages, BUT questions that come in late at night, over a weekend, or otherwise outside of “normal” working hours are not guaranteed an immediate response. Please navigate to the **Home Page (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527)** in this Canvas course if you'd like to book a meeting with me on my calendar app.

Asynchronous classes allow students to complete work on their own time, but you will still have deadlines that you will be required to meet. Following instructions and meeting deadlines is a major part of this class! Students are given a time frame during which they need to complete their assignments and meet the requirements of the course, and an automatic penalty will apply for any late submissions.

I will post updates and weekly reminders via Canvas announcements, and I will provide relevant textbook chapter content, recorded lecture videos, and other supplemental resources in the in the **Pages (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/pages)** section. **Homework (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments)** and **Discussions (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/discussion_topics)** will be available for direct submission via Canvas. Weekly **Modules (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/modules)** will also be assigned with required to-do items to help you keep track of due dates.

Tips for Success in Online Astronomy

My goal in grading is to reward two things: (1) the effort you put into this class, and (2) your understanding and demonstrated knowledge of astronomy. Additionally, be aware that following instructions and meeting deadlines is also an important part of this class. For those students who simply need to pass this course, I have good news: *my goal* is to pass every student who stays engaged with the course material through the end of the semester, and the course structure is designed to achieve this. **But what about those who want to get an A or a B in this class?** Here's what I recommend:

- First, realize that this *online* class requires more self-discipline, integrity, and a level of comfort with technology, than face-to-face classes do. Set aside a time to regularly work on assignments and be proactive in contacting me if you have problems with Canvas, etc.
- Second, make sure your line of communication is open! Course announcements are made directly through Canvas. Please check your notification settings to make sure you receive course announcements.

- Finally, use all course/Canvas resources. I am also available to help and answer questions!

Course Grading

The grade you receive in this course will be based on your individual mastery of the material, not on your standing relative to your peers (I do not curve the course grades). You may always respectfully ask me to reconsider your grade on any individual assignment, as it's always possible I've overlooked something.

An “A” represents excellent work that exceeds basic requirements. A “B” is good work that meets basic requirements. A “C” represents work that is below the basic requirements, but passing. A "D" represents insufficient mastery to satisfy core degree requirements or prerequisites. An “F” is failing and does not meet the minimum requirements.

Please do not ask me to round your grade up! **End of semester grade bumps are a violation of academic integrity**. I will not respond to such requests, and I do NOT offer any extra credit assignments in this course. Grades on assignments are not necessarily final until class is over, meaning I reserve the right to go back and review earlier classwork in the event where I need to correct any errors I may have made grading the first time around. This may result in a higher -OR- lower grade. This is primarily so that an equitable grading process is applied for ALL students; for example, if I notice an error on one person's graded assignment that does not match how the assignment was graded for other students, I reserve the right to go back and make that correction.

COURSE GRADES

A (90% or higher)	B (80-89.99%)	C (70-79.99%)	D (60-69.99%)	F (59.99% or lower)

Course Evaluation

1. Multiple-Choice Homework Assignments (14)
2. Discussion Topic Participation (8)
3. Course Assessments/Evaluations (4)
4. Astronomy Topic Essay (1)

Reading-Based Homework (14 x 25 pts) _____ 350 points (26% of total grade)

Discussion Participation (8 x 40 pts) _____ 320 points (24% of total grade)

Evaluations (4 x 110 pts) _____ 440 points (32% of total grade)

Astronomy Topic Essay (1 x 240 pts) _____ 240 points (18% of total grade)

Grades are calculated out of maximum possible points (1,350) and converted to a %.

Coursework Expectations

HOMEWORK: There will be 14 homework quizzes assigned throughout the semester, worth 25 points each. They are based on the assigned textbook reading and additional content provided for each chapter. You are responsible for reading and watching all the material posted each week. There will typically be just one homework quiz assignment designated in each weekly module. They will be available at the beginning of the week (Monday) until the end of the week (Sunday, before midnight) to complete on your own time. Each quiz will each consist of multiple-choice questions based on relevant chapter(s). The quizzes will NOT be timed. You may use the textbook as a reference and any notes you have taken. You are NOT allowed to collaborate with anyone on the homework assignments. The quizzes will allow for TWO attempts, which will take the average of your two scores. If you score 100% on your first attempt, you do not need to re-take the quiz.

ASSESSMENTS/EVALUATIONS: There will be four evaluations assigned during the course of this semester. Each assessment will consist of 11 image-based, free-response questions, worth 10 points each. You can earn partial credit by answering parts of each question that you know, even if you are unable to fully answer each question. They are timed assignments (60 minutes) that are representative of the kind of content that you would see on a midterm or a final exam. Each evaluation DOES have an associated due date (see the course calendar and/or the modules section for details) and a penalty will apply for any late submissions. However, once each evaluation becomes available, you are NOT absolutely required to submit the assignment during a specific time frame. It is of course recommended that you complete each assessment in a timely manner after the relevant modules/chapters so the content is fresh on your mind and to avoid the late penalty, but you could theoretically choose to complete all of the course assessments on the very last day of class. They are not required to be completed in order for you to advance through the course Modules.

Evaluation 1: chapters 1-6
Evaluation 2: chapters 7-12
Evaluation 3: chapters 15-24 (not 20)
Evaluation 4: chapters 25-30

In these assignments, you will need to be prepared to type out your responses to each question, which will be shown to you one at a time, and each question will lock after you submit your response. They are less straight-forward than simple multiple-choice formatted questions and may include multiple parts, but they should not be exorbitantly difficult. Unlike the homework quizzes, you will only have ONE attempt on each of these assessments. You may NOT work with anyone else to complete these evaluations or use ANY unauthorized reference material besides the textbook and your own notes. Since this class is online, these policies are obviously reliant on the honor system, but I do have the ability to virtually moderate the assignment. I can see how long you are taking to answer each

question, whether you have navigated away from the test-taking page (and for how long), and the overall time taken to write out your submission on each question. Any suspicious activity on the assessments will be investigated more thoroughly, and I reserve the right to deduct points based on academic misconduct. As mentioned, these assignments will be timed; in the event that you accidentally open an evaluation when you are not ready to take it, please close it immediately and send me an email; I will reset it for you. If there is something hugely unfortunate that happens outside of anyone's control (i.e. the power goes out across the city) and you are timed-out before you are able to complete it, please let me know about your circumstances as soon as you can. In cases like that, I may re-open the evaluation for you to retake, but I reserve the right to deduct points at my discretion. Please make sure to start these assignments only when you have the time to focus on them.

DISCUSSIONS: There will be 8 discussion topics presented throughout this course. They will consist of a starting prompt and instructions on how to proceed. I am looking for thoughtful individual primary posts and secondary responses to classmates. Your grade will only depend on your individual submissions. I will grade your posts based on how well you have answered the prompt, including the content of your ideas and inclusion of references. I will grade each discussion assignments once the due date for both the PRIMARY and SECONDARY posts has passed. Even if you have only made your PRIMARY post at that point, I will still grade your discussion assignment, and you will lose points for your missing SECONDARY comment according to the rubric. However, since the discussion assignments do stay open for you to contribute to all semester, you may always submit a late comment to earn back missing points (with late penalty applied). You will have one week to make a PRIMARY and SECONDARY post for each discussion topic. **Points will be taken off for submissions that are clearly AI-generated or use AI-derived sources that have not been explicitly acknowledged.** Please post your discussion comments directly in the Canvas forum!

ASTRONOMY ESSAY: There will be one astronomy essay assigned in this course. There are four different topics provided as a starting prompt, but you only have to select ONE of the options to write about. The due date for the essay is indicated in the assignment instructions, as well in the course calendar (below). Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions about the format requirements, works cited page, etc. You may submit your essay at any point throughout the semester. Before the deadline passes, you will have unlimited attempts to upload your document, so you should be able to resubmit if you find an error or want to make a correction. I won't immediately grade essays that come in, so you have a bit of a buffer to resubmit the essay if you wish, but once it has been graded, I will not accept a new submission.

Late Work Policy

Extension requests for assignments should be **clearly communicated** to me ahead of time whenever possible. Requests made after the due date are not guaranteed an extension, but may be considered.

HOMEWORK: I will almost always grant an extension on homework assignments (AKA no late penalty will be applied for an extended time frame) if you request accommodations **ahead of time**. This may not be required if you already have special accommodations through the college that allow for extension exceptions. I understand that there is a lot going on in the world and coursework will not always be your first priority! However, if communication with me has not been established about an extension **in advance**, I reserve the right to decline the request. Because assignments will remain OPEN for you to submit throughout the entire semester, I will only allow for extensions that are requested ahead of time, or for a situational emergency that is communicated to me *as soon as possible after the due date passes* (e.g. a flare up of a documented health issue). Please note that you never need to provide me with any details about your health or private life that you do not feel comfortable sharing with me, but I do always welcome any discussion with you that would provide me with context for your circumstances! For late work that is not otherwise granted an extension, there will be an automatic **PER DAY late penalty applied of 1% off** from the total assignment score.

DISCUSSIONS: Each discussion assignment is meant to be an active conversation with your peers throughout the semester. The assignments will stay open until the very end of class, but an automatic penalty of **1% off per day** will be applied to any late PRIMARY and SECONDARY posts. Any posts beyond the required PRIMARY and SECONDARY posts will not be subject to any kind of late penalty or point reduction.

ASSESSMENTS/EVALUATIONS: Once they become available, you may complete each of these evaluations at ANY subsequent point during the semester, with the same **1% off penalty applied per day** that each one is submitted late. Again, they are not required to be completed in order for you to advance through the Modules.

ASTRONOMY TOPIC ESSAY: This assignment will be available starting from the first week of class, and you will have all semester to work on it. The due date for the essay will be clearly stated in the assignment instructions, as well in the course calendar, below. Because this assignment is available for nearly the entire semester, **absolutely NO late astronomy topic essays will be accepted** under any circumstance.

IN THIS CLASS

You have the RIGHT to be treated with respect and professionalism

- *You have the RESPONSIBILITY to interact in a respectful and constructive manner.*

You have the RIGHT to clarity about course objectives, assignments, and grades

- *You have the RESPONSIBILITY to read the syllabus, comply with course guidelines, ask questions if anything is unclear. Please keep up with email & announcements.*

You have the RIGHT to consistent grading of work, applied to all students

- *You have the RESPONSIBILITY to complete assignments, use available resources to improve the quality of your work as necessary, and respond civilly to evaluation or feedback of your work.*

You have the RIGHT to flexibility during times of crisis, which you have communicated to me

- *You have the RESPONSIBILITY to participate, complete assignments, and contact me if you will miss work or need accommodations. Please keep me informed about emergency circumstances.*

You have the RIGHT to my availability for meetings and timely responses to messages

- *You have the RESPONSIBILITY to keep scheduled appointments or cancel as soon as you know you can't make it. Please include your preferred contact information in your messages.*

***We use the Canvas Discussion feature to facilitate class conversations, guided by* Netiquette (https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette) .**

- Show respect and be courteous. Refrain from inappropriate language.
- Learn about, understand, and support your classmates.
- Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or other insensitive comments.
- Value the diversity among your classmates.
- Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.
- Challenge others constructively with the intent of expanding discussion.
- Be open to being challenged on your ideas.
- Do not demean or embarrass others.
- Consider your comments before you post them.

Course Calendar

The course is divided into **Modules (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/modules)** which are listed in the course calendar outline, below. The textbook chapter reading outline is included to support your ability to successfully take the homework quizzes, **but the depth and detail with which you pursue each chapter is ultimately up to you**.

Modules will be made available at the beginning of each week (Mondays), with homework assignments due at the end of the week (Sundays), except for the last week of class, which ends on a Saturday. Due dates are implemented for uniform pacing that will ensure you move through all the material in a timely manner by the end of the course, but assignments stay open for submission at any time (with late penalty applied).

For those who are concurrently enrolled in ASTR 1115L, these topics/chapters will align weekly.

Please visit the **UNM Registrar Page (https://registrar.unm.edu/semester-deadline-dates/index.html)** for

details on important **Semester Deadline Dates**. This affects fees, refunds, registration changes, withdraw records, and grades. Midterm/Finals Week and breaks are noted.

Fall 2026 Semester: Course Calendar

Date	Topic/Textbook Chapters	Assignments/Due Dates
Week 1 August 17-23	Getting Started Module & Syllabus Quiz HW 1: Read Chapter 1 (Science & The Universe, A Brief Tour) **Astronomy Topic Essay assigned**	**Getting Started Module:** Syllabus Quiz due Sunday, August 23rd **Module 1 (Introduction):** Homework 1 due Sunday, August 23rd
Week 2 August 24-30	HW 2: Read Chapter 2 (The Birth of Astronomy)	**Module 2 (Astronomy Basics):** Homework 2 due Sunday, August 30th **Discussion #1** posts due Sunday, August 30th
Week 3 Aug. 31-Sept. 6	HW 3: Read Chapters 3 and 4 (Orbits; Earth, Moon and Sky)	**Module 3 (Earth, Moon & Sky):** Homework 3 due Sunday, September 6th
Week 4 September 7-13	HW 4: Read Chapters 5 and 6 (Radiation, Spectra; Astronomical Tools)	**Module 4 (The Study of Light):** Homework 4 due Sunday, September 13th **Discussion #2** posts due Sunday, September 13th **Evaluation 1 due Sunday, September 13th**
Week 5	HW 5: Read Chapters 7 and 8	**Module 5 (The Solar System):** Homework 5 due Sunday,

September 14-20	(Intro to Solar System; Earth as a Planet)	September 20th
Week 6 September 21-27	HW 6: Read Chapters 9 and 10 (Cratered Worlds; Earth-like Planets)	**Module 6 (Terrestrials):** Homework 6 due Sunday, September 27th **Discussion #3** posts due Sunday, September 27th
Week 7 Sept. 28-Oct. 4	HW 7: Read Chapters 11 and 12 (Giant Planets; Moons and Rings)	**Module 7 (Giants & Moons):** Homework 7 due Sunday, October 4th **Evaluation 2 due Sunday, October 4th**
Week 8 October 5-11	**FALL BREAK**	**Discussion #4** posts due Sunday, October 11th
Week 9 October 12-18	HW 8: Read Chapters 15 and 16 (The Sun and Nuclear Fusion)	**Module 8 (The Sun & Other Stars):** Homework 8 due Sunday, October 18th
Week 10 October 19-25	HW 9: Read Chapters 17, 18, 19 (Stellar Characteristics; Distances)	**Module 9 (Stellar Classification):** Homework 9 due Sunday, October 25th **Discussion #5** posts due Sunday, October 25th
Week 11 Oct. 26-	HW 10: Read Chapter 21 (The Birth of Stars and Exoplanets)	**Module 10 (Exoplanets):** Homework 10 due Sunday, November 1st

Nov. 1		
Week 12 November 2-8	HW 11: Read Chapters 22, 23, 24 (Star Death, Black Holes, Spacetime)	**Module 11 (Dead & Dying Stars):** Homework 11 due Sunday, November 8th **Discussion #6** posts due Sunday, November 8th **Evaluation 3 due Sunday, November 8th**
Week 13 November 9-15	HW 12: Read Chapters 25 and 26 (The Milky Way; Galaxies)	**Module 12 (Galaxies, Part 1):** Homework 12 due Sunday, November 15th
Week 14 November 16-22	HW 13: Read Chapters 27 and 28 (The Distribution & Evolution of Galaxies)	**Module 13 (Galaxies, Part 2):** Homework 13 due Sunday, November 22nd **Discussion #7** posts due Sunday, November 22nd
Week 15 November 23-29	**THANKSGIVING BREAK** **[Remember, NO LATE ESSAYS will be accepted]**	**NO ASSIGNMENTS DUE**
Week 16 Nov. 30-Dec. 6	HW 14: Read Chapters 29 and 30 (Big Bang; Astrobiology, Life in Universe)	**Module 14 (Cosmology & Life):** Homework 14 due Sunday, December 6th **Astronomy Topic Essay** due Sunday, December 6th
Week 17	**Important Note:** For all grading consideration, turn in any	**Module: FINAL WEEK** **Discussion #8** posts due

December 7-12	remaining homework assignments, discussion posts, or evaluation assessments no later than **SATURDAY, December 12th**	SATURDAY, December 12th **Evaluation 4 due SATURDAY, December 12th**

General Course Policies

The remainder of the course policies are outlined below. I will always remind you of anything that is of particular importance, either in course announcements or in assignment instructions.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) Policy: Limited Use

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) tools/programs (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Grammarly Pro, etc.) to complete work for this course is generally not allowed, except for specific instances that would be clearly indicated. There may be some activities or assignments for which limited use of GAI tools may be allowed. However, you are not to interpret this as permission to freely use GAI in any other aspect of this course. You are, for example, not allowed to use GAI for directly generating responses to discussion prompts, but you may use GAI in the scope of brainstorming or organizing your thoughts.

Attendance: This is an online and asynchronous class and face-to-face class attendance is not required. However, please be aware that students who miss assignments due in the few weeks of class may be dropped from class as "no show." Instructor also reserves the right to drop a student they miss an excessive number of assignments without communication.

Schedule/Assignments/Rubrics Subject to Change: Any changes will be announced through Canvas, and all efforts will be made to accommodate students. Instructor reserves the right to deduct additional points beyond what is outlined in grading rubrics if an assignment is clearly plagiarized, written with AI, or contains inappropriate language/images, etc.

Honor Code Pledge: You must complete the honor code pledge to participate in this class. Students who do not maintain their honor code pledge may be removed from the course entirely.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Please communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risk committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a **Student Code of Conduct (https://pathfinder.unm.edu/code-of-conduct.html)** violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure.

When you use a resource in ALL work submitted for this class, document and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource. If you use any sources other than those provided in the course, please clearly cite them. Allowing another student to copy your own work also constitutes academic dishonesty.

Student Accessibility

Confidentiality: I will never discuss a student's disability status with, or in front of, others. I will always be mindful of engaging a student about accommodations or disability to avoid revealing the student as someone with a disability. I will always speak with students privately about accommodation needs.

Preferred Name and Pronouns: Class rosters are provided to the instructor with a student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by your claimed name and/or (a)gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early so that I may make changes to my records. You may also edit your Canvas user profile to **indicate preferred pronouns (https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-select-personal-pronouns-in-my-user-account-as-a/ta-p/456)** .

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact **Accessibility Resource Center (https://arc.unm.edu/)** at **arcsrvs@unm.edu (mailto:arcsrvs@unm.edu)** or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740: Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek **support (https://lobowellbeing.unm.edu/resources/emotional-mental.html)** and **report (https://ceeo.unm.edu)** incidents. Find confidential services at **LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (https://loborespect.unm.edu)** , the **Women's Resource Center (https://women.unm.edu)** , and the **Arcoíris Center (https://arcoiris.unm.edu/)** . UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must **communicate reports (https://ceeo.unm.edu/reporting/how-do-i-report.html)** of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to **Compliance Ethics and Equal Opportunity (https://ceeo.unm.edu)** . For more information, please see **UAP 2720 (https://unmpolicy.policystat.com/policy/17084818/latest/)** and **UAP 2740 (https://unmpolicy.policystat.com/policy/17084862/latest/)** .

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students,

including members of our undocumented community.

Additional Student Support

Student Health and Counseling (http://shac.unm.edu) (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136

PASOS Resource Center (mailto:PASOS%20Resource%20Center) (505) 925-8546, or email **pasos@unm.edu (mailto:pasos@unm.edu-)** : on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

Tutoring: UNM-Valencia Learning Commons Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In-person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC. Making use of tutoring is a great way to set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses. Schedule an appointment: **Learning Commons Bookings (https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/TESTLearningCommons@unmm.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)**

If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to **tutor@unm.edu (mailto:tutor@unm.edu)** after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email **tutor@unm.edu (mailto:tutor@unm.edu)** . You’ll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday. Resources to support study skills and time management are available through Student Learning Assistance at the Center for Teaching and Learning in Zimmerman Library or online.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Aug 23, 2026	Homework 1 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446875)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 30, 2026	Homework 2 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446859)	due by 11:59pm
	The Night Sky (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446896)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 6, 2026	Homework 3 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446867)	due by 11:59pm
	Evaluation 1 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446873)	due by 11:59pm

Sun Sep 13, 2026	Homework 4 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446860)	due by 11:59pm
	The Moon & Kepler's Laws (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446895)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 20, 2026	Homework 5 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446864)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2026	Homework 6 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446863)	due by 11:59pm
	Terraforming Mars (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446894)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2026	Evaluation 2 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446868)	due by 11:59pm
	Homework 7 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446871)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2026	Solar System Exploration (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446892)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2026	Homework 8 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446858)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 25, 2026	Homework 9 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446861)	due by 11:59pm
	The Sun's Impact on Earth (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446889)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2026	Homework 10 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446872)	due by 11:59pm
	Evaluation 3 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446865)	due by 11:59pm
	Exoplanet Detection &	

Sun Nov 8, 2026	Characterization (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446887)	due by 11:59pm
	Homework 11 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446857)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 15, 2026	Homework 12 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446869)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 22, 2026	Galactic Mergers & Warp Speed (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446885)	due by 11:59pm
	Homework 13 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446866)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 6, 2026	Astronomy Topic Essay (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446897)	due by 11:59pm
	Homework 14 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446862)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 12, 2026	Evaluation 4 (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446870)	due by 11:59pm
	Extremophiles (https://canvas.unm.edu/courses/69527/assignments/1446883)	due by 11:59pm