

Astronomy 175/176
Colorado Night Skies
Spring 2010
Red Rocks Community College

Instructor: Lynnette Hoerner
Phone: 303-914-6479
Email: lynnette.hoerner@rrcc.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:30-12:30
T 12:30-2:00
Office: 2657

My office hours are available to for help on anything you're having trouble with. I'll also answer my office phone during this time. If you need to contact me outside of office hours, *email is the best option*. I check email every day, including weekends. I check voice mail Monday – Thursday and occasionally on weekends. I can set up a time to meet with you outside my office hours if you need help. Contact me and we'll work something out.

Course Description:
1 Credit Hour

Develops an appreciation for the night sky and the objects we can observe there. Develops the skills to successfully observe the sky and many of the interesting objects that can be seen with the naked eye, binoculars or a small telescope.

Textbook:

Patterns in the Sky: An Introduction to Stargazing by Ken Hewitt-White

The textbook for this class is optional, but recommended. It contains an excellent series of star charts to help with your viewing and a lot of good information and advice to help you learn your way around the night sky. It's a small book which is not terribly expensive and you can acquire it used online. The same book will be used in all three semesters of the Night Sky class.

Drop and Withdrawal Dates:

It is the responsibility of the student to complete all required registration/withdrawal requirements. Specific dates, requirements, and information are available at the Red Rocks Community College web site: www.rrcc.edu. Not withdrawing within the proper time limit will cause the student to receive a letter grade based upon his/her current standing in the class at the end of the course session.

Student & Instructor Expectations:

Students should be prepared to question, learn and complete assignments in a timely and professional manner. Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to the instructor and fellow students in all written or verbal communications. All rules in the student Code of Conduct apply to this classroom. In return the instructor will work to provide a respect filled environment in which every student can learn.

The instructor will also give students timely and professional feedback (including graded assignments) and assistance in their learning.

Cell phones should be silenced or turned off during class, and texting during class is unacceptable.

Disability Accommodations:

RRCC will provide accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To request an accommodation, contact the Office of Special Services; Director, Jacquie Stanton at your earliest convenience. The Office of Special Services located in the Learning and Resource Center (LARC) in Room 1185. You may contact Jacquie at 303.914.6731 V/TDD or email jacquelyn.stanton@rrcc.edu

Policies:

Tutoring: Please do not allow yourself to fall behind in this course. Contact information is available to speak with the instructor and if you are earning a grade of C or below, tutoring is available. You are also encouraged to form a study group. If your group has a regular meeting time, Student Life will provide a meeting place, snacks, and in some cases, a tutor.

Incomplete Grades: The issuing of an incomplete grade requires the submission of a detailed description of the circumstance beyond the student's control that leads to an inability to complete the required coursework, the completion of a minimum of 75% of the semester's coursework, and a grade of C or above earned on the completed coursework.

Course Structure:

This course will be graded based on labs, homework, class activities and exams.

You may not submit work by email without specific permission from the instructor. I receive as many as 2 or 3 dozen emails a day, and it's just too hard to keep track of homework submitted this way. ***It will not be accepted.*** All assignments should be turned in during class time. If for some reason this is not possible, you may bring the assignment to my office or drop it by Instructional Services to be placed in my campus mail box.

Labs: There are three labs in this class. Two of them will be completed in class, the other will be completed on your own between classes. These are a significant part of your grade in the class, so please be sure you get them turned in.

You are encouraged to work with a lab partner to complete the labs, but each person must do their own write up. If the question responses on two labs are identical, you'll lose points for that. Repeated offenses may result in a zero. It's important that each student have a grasp of the material individually.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the end of each class. If you miss a class, you must make arrangements with me to make up the quiz. They are open note, open book quizzes which should pose no problem if you've been paying attention during class.

Practical Test: At the end of the course, you will be asked to identify three constellations in the night sky and tell me something interesting about each of them.

Project: On the last day of class, you will be required to do a short presentation and turn in a 2-3 page paper. This can be done individually or as part of a group.

Star Parties and Planetarium Visits:

There are several events scheduled each semester for the RRCC Astronomy classes. These include three Star Parties. The star parties are not required, but they are great observing opportunities. Dates and times for these events will be provided on the first day of class.

Grading:

Points in this class will be awarded as follows:

Labs	3 labs @ 50 points each	150 points
Quizzes	3 Quizzes at 50 points each	150 points
Practical Test	1 Practical Test @ 50 points	50 points
Project	1 Group Project @ 200 points	200 points
<hr/>		
Total		550 points

4.0 = A = 495-550 points	(Distinguished)
3.0 = B = 440-495 points	(Above Average)
2.0 = C = 385-440 points	(Competent)
1.0 = D = 330-385 points	(Below Average)
0.0 = F = less than 330 points	(Failing)

Note: Students are encouraged to work together to solve problems, but each student must contribute to the effort and prepare their own write-ups. **Please refer to the student handbook regarding plagiarism and other matters of academic discipline.** Plagiarism (especially from the World Wide Web) will not be tolerated and will result at minimum in an F grade for the assignment. Please be aware that your instructor has read the textbook, and if you copy your answers from it directly or cut and paste from the online version, you will not receive points for your work. Students who are found to have cheated on a quiz or the final exam will also receive a zero for that quiz and may face further disciplinary action.

In addition to the policies listed in this syllabus, all policies in the student handbook apply.