ASTRONOMY 4

Solar System Astronomy
De Anza College
Winter 2022

Instructor: Eric Peterson, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:00 to 4:50 p.m. on Zoom

Textbook: https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy
(Select your preferred option under the header: Get This Book.)

Introduction to Astronomy 4

Astronomy 4 is an introductory-level course which concentrates on the planets of our solar system and what we have learned about them in the past 50 years of space exploration. The course has no prerequisites. However De Anza College
does advise the following: English Writing 1A or English as a Second Language 5.
The class is taught with the non-science major in mind.

Class Format

I am trying to keep things simple. Each week I would like you to do the following:

1. Read the assigned reading for that week
2. Watch assigned powerpoint lecture(s)
3. Watch assigned video(s)
4. Take a short quiz

The reading assignments are on the next page of the syllabus. In addition there will be a midterm exam during week six and a final exam the week of March 21st.

Exams and Grades

Your class grade will be based on weekly quizzes, a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. All will be online through Canvas. The quizzes will constitute 50% of your grade; each individual quiz will be 5% of your grade. The midterm and the final will each be 25% of your grade. The questions will all be of the T/F or multiple choice variety

Reading Assignments

	Week of	**Chapter**
1.	January 3	1, 2.1-2.3
2.	January 10	2.4, 3, 4.1-4.2, 4.5-4.7
3.	January 17	5-6
4.	January 24	15-16
5.	January 31	7, 14.3-14.5, 21.3-21.6
6.	February 7	8
7.	February 14	9
8.	February 21	10
9.	February 28	11-12
10.	March 7	11-12
11.	March 14	13, 14.1-14.2
12.	March 21	Final Exam

Student Learning Outcome(s):

*Appraise the benefits to society of planetary research and exploration.
*Compare and contrast the development of planetary systems and of the major panet types, including those factors that have led to Earth's unique characteristics.
*Evaluate astronomical news items or theories concerning solar system astronomy based upon the scientific method.