

ASTRONOMY 10

Stellar Astronomy

De Anza College

Spring 2026

Instructor: Eric Peterson, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 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

Astronomy 10 is an introductory course which is intended to provide a survey of our knowledge of the stars, galaxies, and of the entire universe. We will examine both the history of humanity's quest to understand the cosmos as well as the current state of that understanding. 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.

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 June 24.

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. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped, and there will be one extra credit quiz. The Midterm and the Final Exam will each be 25% of your grade. All questions will be true/false and multiple choice.

Please note: The Final Exam must be passed in order to pass the class.

Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1. April 6	1, 2.1-2.3
2. April 13	2.4, 3, 4.1-4.2, 4.5-4.7
3. April 20	5-6
4. April 27	15-16
5. May 4	17-19
6. May 11	20, 21.1-21.2, 22
7. May 18	23-24
8. May 25	25
9. June 1	26-27
10. June 8	28
11. June 15	29
12. June 22	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 planet 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.

Office Hours: