

## **Astronomy 0087 “Basics of Space Flight” with Professor Schulte-Ladbeck, Syllabus**

**Welcome to class.** This is a science class *for non-science majors*. The main sciences in space flight are astronomy and physics, but chemistry and biology are used as well. Mathematical descriptions of space flight will require us to use arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

**Book.** I wrote a textbook for this class. You can get a FREE copy on my website. Or, you can buy the eBook, or paperback versions. <http://reslscience.weebly.com/space-books.html>

**Office Hours.** Professor SL's office hours are H 1:00-2:00 pm in 314 Allen and, if this time coincides with another class for you, by appointment. Please, email me either way at [rsl@pitt.edu](mailto:rsl@pitt.edu) to confirm availability. It would be helpful if you included 'A87 appointment request: Your name' in the subject line. I will also be available to answer your questions at the end of class, every T & H from 3:30-3:45 pm.

**Email etiquette.** We see each other twice a week, so don't be shy, come talk to me! For time management reasons, I will usually respond to your emails during my office hour. I will not email you materials that you can pick up in class.

**Exams.** Exam 1: 9/29, Exam 2: 11/3, Exam 3: 12/6. No final exam. Make-up exam: 12/8. You can miss one exam, no questions asked, and take the comprehensive, scheduled make-up exam instead. If you took Exams 1-3, you cannot also take the make-up exam to improve your score.

**Recitation & Homework.** There will be 11 homework assignments, for a total of 10 points. Homework is due at the start of your recitation. We do not accept late homework or homework via email. But you can hand your homework in to our TA at any time prior to the start of your recitation. Our TA will share contact information with you in the first recitation class, and where you can deposit homework early. The name of our TA and recitation instructor is Mr. Bomin Zhang.

**Succeeding in this course.** Read the assigned sections before class. Attend class prepared. Ask questions! Respond when I ask you questions. Take notes during class! I will make use of some power point slides and movies, but will do most work on the blackboard and show experiments. The homework, practice quizzes, and recitations are there to prepare you for succeeding on the exams – participate! Take the regular exams. Even if you have fallen behind in your studies, students usually find it easier to take the regular exams than relying on the make-up for success.

**Absences.** If you miss a class, make sure to get the notes from another student in this course.

**Study Groups.** Students in the hard sciences form study groups, and research shows these students do better in their courses. So, introduce yourself to your neighbors and check for their study availability!

**Grades.** There are 3 exams. Each exam counts for 30 points. If you miss one of the exams, you are entitled to take the comprehensive make-up exam. The homeworks graded in recitation will count for 10 points. There are 11 homeworks to gain the 10 points. The full grade scale is on the next page.

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed.

### **Disability Resources**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Staying connected.** Want to learn more? Visit Allegheny Observatory, and hear about astronomy and astrophysics research from our faculty. Enroll in Astronomy 0086, 0088, or 0089.

### **Detailed grade scale.**

The grade scale for this class follows the University of Pittsburgh QPA scale.

95%-100%	A+
90%-94.9%	A
85%-89.9%	A-
80%-84.9%	B+
75%-79.9%	B
70%-74.9%	B-
60%-69.9%	C+
50%-59.9%	C
40%-49.9%	C-
30%-39.9%	D+
20%-29.9%	D
15%-19.9%	D-
0%-14.9%	F

This is an absolute scale and there will be no curving.

### **Class times.**

Class schedule: T, H 2:30-3:45 pm 102 Thaw

Recitations: W 1:00-1:50 pm 104 Thaw

W 2:00-2:50 pm 104 Thaw

Office hours: H 1:00-2:00 pm 314 Allen (please email instructor at [rsl@pitt.edu](mailto:rsl@pitt.edu) to confirm availability) and at the end of every class.

**Answers.** Here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

Yes, you can interrupt the lecture at any time to ask a question.

No, you cannot take the make-up exam if you haven't missed one of the exams.

No, I do not send out homework assignments and other handouts via email; you need to write them down/ pick them up in class.

No, we do not accept homework via email.

Yes, you can work on the homework with your study group; we still expect that you hand in your own copy of the work.

No, there is no extra credit.