

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 will come into play as well. Mathematical descriptions of space flight will require us to use arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

Book. I am writing a textbook for this class, but it is not quite finished yet. For chapter 1, use the draft on my website at <http://RESLscience.weebly.com/free-stuff.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 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: 2/11, Exam 2: 3/24, Exam 3: 4/19. No final exam. Make-up exam: 4/21. 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 Ms. Zeynep Kalender.

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.