Lecture: Tuesdays 6:10pm to 8:55pm in Science 201
Instructor: Adam Fries
Email: afries@sfsu.edu
(Please include ‘ASTR115’ in the subject line and don’t forget to sign your name.)
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00pm - 6:00pm, 417 Thorton Hall or by appointment

About ASTRONOMY 115: This is an introductory astronomy class for non-science majors. Topics covered include: motions of Sun, Moon and stars, models of the solar system, tools of astronomy, the life and death of stars, galaxies, and cosmology. We will discuss exciting astronomical discoveries which frequently make the news headlines.

We will cover most of the material in the Comins textbook and following it in the same order. During each class meeting we will have in-class activities which are intended to be collaborative and aid the overall learning experience. The course will make use of basic algebra, powers of 10, and scientific notation as a tool to help us understand the size and scope of the universe. Pocket calculators may be used for calculations on HW and exams. One goal of the course is to enable the student to become comfortable thinking critically, and to feel empowered to solve problems. It is not assumed that the student has any previous knowledge of astronomy, so questions of all kinds are strongly encouraged.

Required Materials:

- pencil and eraser
- calculator
- voting card – download it from the course webpage:

Important Dates:
Last day to drop a course w/o a grade of W – February 6
Last day to add a course – February 20
Last day to sign up for CR/NC – March 20
Last day to drop a course w a grade of W – April 24
No class on March 24 – Spring Break
No class on March 31 – Cesar Chavez Day
The Final is scheduled for May 19th in SCI 201 at 6:10pm

Grading Guideline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets (5)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3, drop 1)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit Group Project (2-4 people)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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HOMEWORK: Homework will be assigned about every other week and is due at the start of class. You can access the HW from the course webpage. Late homework will not be graded. All work submitted must be your own. Any assignment which is copied (from any source) will receive zero credit. The offending student’s name will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please see the physics and astronomy department’s plagiarism policy at [www.physics.sfsu.edu/Academics/Policies/html](http://www.physics.sfsu.edu/Academics/Policies/html).

EXAMS: Examinations will be based on lectures, homeworks, and the textbook. There will be three midterm exams and one final exam. You may drop one of the midterm exams. The final exam will focus on
concepts and topics after the third midterm, but also include topics from the entire course.

**Extra Credit:** There will be opportunities for extra credit this semester. Visit the course webpage for more information.

**Disability Services:**
Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact their instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the accommodations process and is located in the Student Services Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415.338.2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).