

Fall 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

Description: Astronomy, one of the original seven liberal arts, has been integrated by countless generations of artists, authors, and musicians into their works. Examining astronomy's deep influence on other areas of human culture helps illuminate our understanding of the universe. In this course we'll explore astronomical examples in the visual arts, fiction (including science fiction), poetry, music, and drama and the underlying science concepts found in these works.

Prerequisite: This course is restricted to first-semester freshmen. The course contains a substantial writing component and fulfills part of the basic education requirement in writing.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the nature, process, and practices essential to scholarly study of a topic.
- To exercise and strengthen writing skills.
- To investigate the nature of the scientific process.
- To discuss how humanities are influenced by science
- To explore the resources of the University

Meeting times/locations (unless otherwise announced)

Monday	3:00-4:50 PM	ETC 2.114
Wednesday	3:00-3:50 PM	RLM 7.114
Tuesday, October 2	6:00-7:30 PM	Erwin Center

Instructor

Name: Dr. Mary Kay Hemenway

Office: RLM 13.126

Office hours: Wednesday 9-11 AM or by appointment

Phone: 471-1309

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Writing Mentor

Name: Erin Ashley

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Required textbooks/readings

The Rough Guide to the Universe by John Scalzi ISBN 1-52528-939-4
Galileo a play by Bertolt Brecht. ISBN 0 802 13059 3.

One copy of each of these books is on reserve at the PMA library in RLM.

Other readings. Other readings are available as the UT Library electronic reserves. The password will be given out in class.

Assignments

Preparation: I expect you to come to class prepared.

Study Habits: Study wisely and ask for help if you need it. If you have questions, please see me. Please ask for help if you need it.

In-class presentations: Students will lead discussions of course content throughout the semester as assigned. Students will give presentations concerning their term papers in class on November 28, December 3, and December 5.

Field trips: Several will be scheduled during class time throughout the semester.

Writing Assignments: Since this is a substantial writing component course, most of the grade will be determined from your assignments. Papers are to be produced on a word processor double-spaced in a 12-point font and margins of 1.25 inches. Citations and bibliography, when appropriate, are to be included. Style guidelines for the term paper will be distributed in class.

You will submit your papers. All papers are to be submitted, and returned through, the Blackboard site. Go to *Assignments* on the page for this class and follow the instructions for submitting your assignments. Please name each paper with your last name plus an underscore character plus the number of the paper (from 1-6); for example, kepler_4.doc would be Johnny Kepler's fourth paper in this class. Each paper will be returned to you with comments using the *Comment* feature of Microsoft WORD.

Instructions for the term paper will also be listed on the Blackboard site. Here are some dates to keep in mind. On September 27, your proposed term paper topic is due by 10 AM. On November 5, the term paper research proposal (minimum 4 pages) and list of references (at least four scholarly references) is due by 10 AM. On November 19, the final term paper is due by 10 AM.

Exams

There are none.

Grading system

Grades are assigned on a point basis.

Class presentation	15%
Assignments (six)	30%
Submission of term-paper topic and research proposal	10%
Term paper	20%
Class participation (including peer editing)	20%
Oral presentation of term paper	5%

Grading scale used for final grades:

A	100% - 90%
B	89% - 80%
C	79% - 70%
D	69% - 65%
F	64% or below

Please notify me of any modification/adaptation you may require to accommodate a disability-related need. At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

Policies: Attendance and Official Dates

Regular attendance is required. For grading purposes, you may have one unexcused absence. Freshmen may be dropped from a course following two unexcused absences. To obtain an excused absence, contact the instructor before the class.

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin that the student must notify each instructor at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates he or she will be absent to observe a religious holy day. For religious holidays that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, the notice should be given on the first day of the semester. The student may not be penalized for these excused absences but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to complete satisfactorily the missed assignment or examination within a reasonable time after the excused absence.

- * 14 September: Last day to drop and receive a refund
- * 26 September: Last day to drop a course without a possible academic penalty
- * 24 October: Last day, with dean's approval, to withdraw from the University or drop a course except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons. This is also the

last day to change to Pass/Fail registration. If you have non-academic problems, see a counselor in your Dean's Office immediately.

* 5 December: Last class day for this class.

Policy on Scholastic dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Standards for Academic Integrity are posted at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Public Outreach in the Astronomy Department

The times of the following events vary throughout the semester and are especially affected by our move from Daylight Savings Time. Call 471-5007 for further information and updates. (The phone message is updated weekly.)

- Astronomy Department Star Parties will be held at the 16-inch telescope on the top of RLM every clear Wednesday of the semester that UT is in session, beginning on 7 September.
- The 9-inch telescope in Painter Hall is open every clear Friday and Saturday night of the semester that UT is in session.
- You can learn to use the 9-inch Painter Hall Telescope. Request a booklet concerning checkout procedures in RLM 13.122.

Fall Semester 2007

Originated 29 August 2007

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