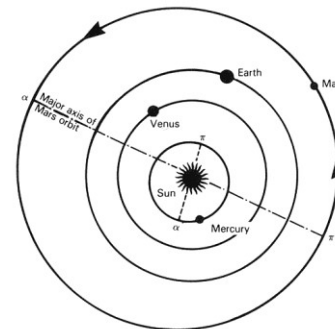


**SYLLABUS PART A  
(KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASS: ALL  
STUDENTS MUST READ THIS AND SIGN THE FORM AT  
THE END)**

AST 101 – FRONTIERS OF ASTRONOMY  
Spring 2020



Christopher M. Graney  
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Office Hours are posted at [www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney](http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney)

**The class web page**

Students must thoroughly review the class web page ([www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney](http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney)) at least twice a week, and are responsible for content on the web page and for using the class web page to stay current with what is going on in the class. With the exception of announcements, no material is ever removed from the web page, for the duration of the class. The class web page will be used as reference material and to distribute various articles and hand-outs that may be used as supplementary material. There is no specific credit for this; students who do not keep up with the web page will simply not know what is going on in the class.

**ACHIEVING A “C” GRADE IN AST 101**

***The most important thing that a student does in this AST 101 class is Participate*** (as outlined below). To achieve a grade of “C” in this class, a student must complete *all* the class participation assignment credits in the class. Students who are forced to miss a class due to life emergencies can do a Make-up Option (available on the class web page) to make up the missed credit. **No missing participation credits are acceptable—students with any missing (zero) credits that have never been made up will need to withdraw from the class or receive a failing grade in the class.**

Participation credits work as follows: At the beginning of a class meeting, a student will turn in comments and questions on the reading material assigned for that class (“Part 1” of participation, using forms provided by the professor). At the end of that class the student will answer his or her own questions and turn that in (“Part 2” of participation, using forms provided by the professor). The student may also be called upon to share comments and questions, and to possibly participate in a discussion panel; if so the student will receive an additional participation credit for that (“Part 3”). There is no penalty if a student does not share questions etc. every class, but consistent failure to do so will result in a zero Part 3 credit that then must be made up.

Thus a typical week of class generates two or three participation credits. Further details are available on the class web page.

Again, *the most important thing that a student does in the class is Participate (as outlined above)*. That is why students who participate in every class will be successful in it and receive a “C” grade, regardless of whatever else they do in the class. That is also why students who fail to participate in every class (and do not make up any participation they are forced to miss) will not be successful in this class, regardless of whatever else they do in the class.

### **ACHIEVING A “B” GRADE IN AST 101**

Students who meet the qualifications for a “C” grade may turn in additional special projects to earn a “B” grade. These projects are intended to give students additional exposure to the world of astronomy. They also allow students to follow their own interests to some extent. Further details about these projects are available on the class web page.

### **ACHIEVING AN “A” GRADE IN AST 101**

Students who meet the qualifications for a “B” grade may also take the Final Exam (an essay exam) in order to earn an “A” grade. “A” students have learned everything that “B” students have learned, but they can also discuss what they have learned, in depth and in writing. Further details about the exam are available on the class web page.

### **KCTCS catalog description**

#### **AST 101 (3) Course ID:000058**

##### Frontiers of Astronomy

Covers the life histories of stars, the nature of black holes and quasars, the origin of the universe, planets of the solar system, and the possibilities for extraterrestrial life. Includes observation-based activities. A one-semester introductory course for non-science majors. Credit is not given to students who have received credit for AST 191 or AST 192. Lecture: 3 credits (45 contact hours).

Components: Lecture

Attributes: SN - Science

### **Required texts, supplies, materials**

The required book for this class is *The Known Universe: Discovering the Science of Astronomy through the History of Astronomy (Sixth Edition)* © 2019.

### **Course requirements**

All students must familiarize themselves with this syllabus. Students who do not sign and return the syllabus within the college’s “no-show” reporting period will be reported as no-shows. Students who have been reported as “no-shows” and wish to have the no-show reversed can request this—I will report no-show reversals on February 1 and March 1 so long as the student is

caught up on participation credits at that point. No grades will be given until the student has signed and returned the last page of this syllabus, and *any student who has not returned the syllabus by the time of the third week of class will receive a failing grade for the class* and should withdraw at that point (this is because at that point it will be clear that the student is not interested in the course, and this course is designed for students with an interest in astronomy).

Many of the usual things involved with classes, such as policies for Late work, etc. do not apply to this AST 101 class. There are few assignments with both firm deadlines and no opportunity to make up the work. Students can potentially miss so many weeks of class that they cannot make up all that they have missed, and thus be forced to withdraw or accept a failing grade. However, that would involve missing one third of AST 101, and such a student would probably be pursuing an administrative withdrawal for life circumstances.

Criteria for earning grades of “A”, “B”, or “C” in AST 101 are outlined above. There are no “D” grades in this course. Students who do not meet the criteria for “C” grades will receive grades of “E” (failing).

Withdrawals: To withdraw from a course means to leave the course after the 100% refund date. Students withdrawing from a course will earn a W and could be responsible for financial charges for the course. Withdrawals for this class are subject to the Academic Calendar of Jefferson Community and Technical College (<https://jefferson.kctcs.edu/education-training/academic-calendar/index.aspx>). Prior to the mid-point of the semester, students may withdraw without the instructor’s approval. After the mid-point, students need the instructor’s approval to withdraw. JCTC does not allow withdrawals after the end of class work (i.e. does not allow withdrawals during the exam period). JCTC is focused on student success, and no student who withdraws from a class can be successful in that class. Students who need to withdraw on account of extraordinary life circumstances may pursue an administrative withdrawal. For further information, see the Jefferson web page.

### **Attendance, Work Completion, and Student Success**

I do the most rigorous data analysis regarding student success of any member of the faculty, staff, or administration at this college. My data on approximately 1000 students who have taken this AST 101 class since 2010 shows that the key to being a successful AST 101 student is to do the simple basics of being a college student: attend class; complete the work assigned (and turn it in – which is part of “completion”). The data show that students who do this are always successful. I support student success. I oppose students following a course of action that will not lead to success. As a scientist, I follow the data. Therefore, students who cannot be present at every class, for the entire class, and cannot complete the work for the class, *should drop the course during the Drop/Add period* (which is typically during the first week of class) and either take a different course or hold off on college until their life circumstances allow for going to, and doing the work required for, a college class. Furthermore, during the course of the semester students who do not attend and do not complete the work will be placed under the special supervision of the college president, per KCTCS policy, and will be considered for academic suspension:

Section V, 2.0.3.2 Unsatisfactory Scholarship and Excessive Absences

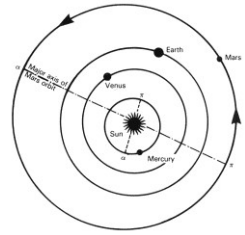
A student who is performing unsatisfactorily or who, in the opinion of the instructor, has excessive absences in any course may be reported to the college president or designee. This student shall be under the special supervision of the college president or designee....  
Any student reported to the president or designee because of unsatisfactory scholarship or excessive absences shall be considered for academic suspension under the provisions of Section V, 4.0.3 at the end of the term during which the reporting occurred.

See KCTCS "Rules of the Senate," under "Academic Policy".

ATTEND EVERY CLASS, AND TURN IN ALL THE ASSIGNED WORK, AND YOU WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT IN THIS AST 101 CLASS.

**Please detach this page and sign it.**

This syllabus must be reviewed and this page printed, signed, initialed, and returned to the professor before any grades will be recorded for this course. Students who do not sign and return the syllabus within the college's "no-show" reporting period will be reported as no-shows. Students who do not return this page by the time of the third week of class will receive a failing grade for the class and should withdraw at that point.



*I have read this AST 101 syllabus in its entirety. I understand the contents therein.*

Name (print):

Name (signed):

Date:

*Initial the following:*

\_\_\_\_ *I understand that I must thoroughly review the class web page ([www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney](http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/faculty/graney)) at least twice a week, and am responsible for content on the web page and for using the web page to stay current with what is going on in the class.*

\_\_\_\_ *I understand the specific criteria for achieving a "C" grade in AST 101, and that there are no "D" grades in AST 101, so that failure to meet these criteria will result in a failing grade in AST 101.*

\_\_\_\_ *I understand that the professor's data shows that attending class and completing the assigned work is key to success in the class, that therefore the professor recommends dropping the course for any student who cannot attend and complete the work needed for at least a "C" grade.*

\_\_\_\_ **Special note to any high school students taking this class:** *High school students taking this class are fully students in a college class. High school students are therefore ultimately responsible for their own attendance at, and work in, this class. High school issues such as school bus schedules and high school events that may conflict with the class must be handled by high school students on their own, in the same way that work, transportation, and family problems are handled by their peers in the class who are older.*