

SYLLABUS FOR AST 101LB

Spring 2005

Dr. Gary Mechler

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Approximately 15-20 lab assignments and activities will be done during the semester. Some will be written exercises involving quantitative skills such as computations, measurements and accurate drawings. **I make the general recommendation that students have completed Math 92 (Elementary Algebra) before taking either lab course. This especially pertains to AST 102LB.** The written exercises may be completed within the scheduled lab time or at home; only the due date is firm. These exercises may be done with one lab partner, if you wish. You will lose points when I see similar labs for more than two students. If the two of you can't figure out a desired answer, then see me. Some assignments and activities must be done in class. These assignments will be of two types--videotapes, which will occasionally be shown to provide supplementary information to that given in the lecture course, and group participatory exercises.

Labs are scored on the basis of completion, timeliness, and accuracy. Accuracy is scored only on a spot basis, usually. Participation is the primary basis for earning credit for in-class activities. Lab exercise scores are weighted to reflect the differing amount of work involved from lab to lab.

NOTE:

Many answers are the result of calculations. Even though calculators may be used to carry out the actual calculations, I will expect to see the setups for those calculations. In other words, **on math problems, show me the math.**

There is often little space in the "LSW" lab exercises. Nevertheless, I need to have **your responses go into the spaces provided.** Problem setups and any related scratch work may be done on separate sheets and handed in with the lab exercise, but remember to **copy your final math results into the spaces provided.** I won't grade labs in which you fail to do this. I will return the lab to you to copy your final responses in the spaces provided, unless it is the last lab of the semester, in which case I will grade it, but with a penalty. Also, ensure that you write their appropriate units.

The course grade will be determined from the exercises and class time activities. (No tests, but perhaps a quiz or two.) **The lowest score is dropped** at the end of the semester. The grading scale for the lab courses is the same as for the lecture courses.

You can expect that the lab work will help you better understand the concepts introduced in the lecture course as well as foster improved quantitative work skills and habits.

A hand scientific calculator is needed for AST 102LB.

Late Policy: The course load for you and me can tend to build up and it is important for all of us to see that work is turned in on the due date. This is even more true in summer courses. On the other hand, I realize events beyond the student's control may prevent an assignment from being handed in on time. I therefore will accept with no penalty homework handed in anytime on the due date. If you cannot hand the assignment in until after class time, you need to hand it into the Division Secretary's Office on the second floor of the ME building where they will stamp it and place it in my mailbox. A small, but growing, late penalty of 2 pts @ school day (Mon—Fri, except holidays) will be assessed until the assignment is handed in or the penalty grows equal to the maximum possible score. This penalty applies even if just part of the homework is handed in late, though at a reduced rate. **NB: If you cannot be in class on the due date,** then you have option to mail me the assignment. I will credit or penalize, whichever is appropriate, as if you had handed in the assignment on the envelope post date. This is a reasonable and flexible policy. **Do not ask for favors for you have already been given favor with this policy.**

Withdrawal Policy: The school's official last date for student self-withdrawal is important for you to know for astronomy lab courses. **This semester, the final date for self-withdrawal is Wednesday, April 6.** If after this date, you wish not to complete the course, or you do wish to complete the course, but personal circumstances prevent you from doing so, then you may avoid being graded A—F BY CONTACTING ME ABOUT YOUR SITUATION BEFORE SUBMITTING THE LAST TWO LSW LABS (about 3 or 4 weeks before the semester end). Once I grade these, you have completed the course and thereby are too late to withdraw. I may then award you a Y (Instructor-initiated end-of-semester withdrawal) or I (Incomplete) grade, at my discretion, all these possibilities depending upon your particular circumstance. **Important:** I (Incomplete) grades must be completed within one year or the grade will convert to an F.

I want you to fill out the appropriate form, which I give you, and sign it. See the Pima College Course Catalog for basic information about the Y and I grades. I will add that you must have completed at least half the assigned lab exercises and in-class activities for me to consider awarding an I grade. Additionally, I need to look at your current grade situation to feel assured that you have a reasonable expectation of completing the course with a C or better. **NB:** If you do not complete the course within one calendar year, your I grade will convert to F.

Understand that if you just disappear sometime before the end without withdrawing yourself (before the Withdrawal Deadline) or seeing me about receiving a Y or I grade (after the Withdrawal Deadline), I will have no choice but to calculate your Final Grade on the basis of what scores I have recorded in the grade records. In most cases this means you will receive a D or F.

As with life, you will get out of lab what you put into it.

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Reasonable accommodations, including materials in an alternative format, will be made for individuals with disabilities when a minimum of five working days advanced notice is given. Pima Community College students, contact the West Campus Disabled Student Resources Office.

Figure 1 standard, college-approved ADA statement