Professor: Loris Magnani  Office: Physics 238  Phone: 542-2876

E-Mail: loris@physast.uga.edu

Class: MWF 12:20 PM – 1:10 PM in room 221 Physics

Office Hours: MW 3:30 – 5 PM or by appointment (call or e-mail)

Text: *Archives of the Universe* – Marcia Barusiak

*The Copernican Revolution* – Thomas S. Kuhn

Both texts required

Web Page: [www.physast.uga.edu/~loris](http://www.physast.uga.edu/~loris) follow link to ASTR 1660 page

Class call number from Schedule of Classes: 08-640

Objective: The purpose of this course is to present the history of astronomy from the point of view of an astronomer rather than a historian. This means we will focus on the scientific developments and see how our concept of the cosmos has changed with time. We will focus particularly on how the modern conception of the solar system developed and on how modern cosmology came to be. This course is designed for non-science majors, so there will be only the briefest mathematical exposition of some subjects. Only a basic knowledge of high-school algebra and scientific notation will be required.

Methodology: The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion based on the assigned readings for the week. Each week, you will be assigned material to read from either or both of the required texts. I will take some class time to explain some of the concepts covered by the texts, but I will also expect you to discuss the material.

Grading: The grading system will consist of a midterm exam and a final exam, each worth 25% of your total grade. In addition to the exams, there will also be 2 papers assigned, one due before the midterm of the semester and the other due the last week of class. The papers will be 5-10 pages in length on a topic chosen from a list that I will distribute and each paper will be worth 20% of your final grade. The last 10% of your grade is based on attendance and class participation. After the first week of class, at the end of each period, I will pass around a sheet where you will check off a box that denotes you attended the class and another box where you will decide whether you participated sufficiently in the class discussion that day (if any). At the end of the semester, I will give each person a score out of 10 based on their attendance and overall class participation. By adding up the weighted scores on exams, papers, and
attendance/participation, I will arrive at your final score. Once your final score is calculated, the letter grade you receive will be based on the following scale: A is for a score of 93.00 or above, A- is for the range 90.00 – 92.99, B+ is for 87.00 – 89.99, B is for 83.00 – 86.99, B- is for 80.00 – 82.99, C+ is for 77.00 – 79.99, C is for 73.00 – 76.99, C- is for 70.00 – 72.99, D is for 60.00 – 69.99, and F is for any average below 60.00.

**Class Policies**

If you miss one of the exams due to serious illness or family emergency, a make-up exam will be administered within two weeks of the missed exam at a mutually convenient time. However, you will be asked to provide evidence of such illness or emergency and I am the final arbiter as to what constitutes an emergency.

Please make a reasonable attempt to arrive on time. If you must leave earlier than the scheduled end of class, please try to do so with a minimum of noise. Class disruptions or distracting behavior will not be tolerated.

Ask for clarification on anything you find unclear, ambiguous, or unspecified. This includes both course policies and astronomical topics.

Know the rules concerning withdrawals and incompletes, published in the UGA Undergraduate Bulletin. Note that I will NOT withdraw you from the course for excessive absences. Note also that after the midpoint of the semester, a withdrawal is assigned a grade of WF, except in those cases in which the student is doing satisfactory work and the withdrawal is recommended by the Office of Student Affairs because of emergency or health reasons.

All students are responsible for knowing, understanding, and abiding by the academic honesty policy of the University of Georgia, which can be found online at [http://honesty.uga.edu](http://honesty.uga.edu). If you have any questions about this policy and how it pertains to your work in this course, please ask me for clarification.