

Valencia Community College
Science Department
online course
WEST CAMPUS
Professor: Juan P. Rivera
Web Page: <https://online.valenciacollege.edu>

Text: Discovering the Universe 9th edition by Neil F. Comins & William J. Kaufman III, ISBN-1-4292-5520-2

E-mail: All e-mail between you and me must be via the mail Blackboard link provided to you. If for any reason Blackboard is down then you can send me an e-mail. The alternate e-mail address is jrivera259@atlas.valenciacollege.edu. Usually Blackboard is up and running 24/7.

Course Description: An introductory survey of astronomical universe. It includes study of the earth as astronomical body, solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmological theory of universe in general. Much emphasis on unprecedented growth of knowledge in Astronomy during past decade. This is a 100% online course.

Evaluation Process: There will be 5 exams and 14 homework. The exams will count for 60% of your term grade and homework will be 40% of your grade. The grading system is as follow; A- 90 -100%, B- 80-89%, C- 70-79%, D- 60-69%, F- 0-59%.

Attendance: This course will be presented exclusively online via Blackboard with an emphasis placed on the processes of discovery, explanation, and problem-solving skills in astronomy. There is no face to face meeting in a classroom environment.

Orientation Quiz: There is a mandatory orientation quiz that you must pass in order to stay in the class. You must get a minimum score 130 out of 150 to pass. There is a second chance to pass this orientation quiz if you fail the first one.

Withdrawal: I will withdraw any students that fit any of the following criteria (1) Missing 3 consecutive homework (2) Missing 2 consecutive Exams (3) Not passing the orientation quiz. Any of these offenses will be treated as a violation of the class attendance policy per Valencia Policy 4-07 on course attendance and grades

Concerns: If you have a concern or any problem with this class. Please send me an e-mail and I will listen to your situation and find a solution that will help you. You must come to me first before going to anybody in the administration.

Make-up: There will be no make-up exams or homework. I will not accept late homework. If you have a documented institutional excuse please send me an e-mail with your proof.

Cheating: I have zero tolerance for cheating. If you are caught cheating on any assignment or assessments you will fail this course.

Disclaimer: The calendar and the sequence of topics are subject to change at my discretion. It is a responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

Important dates: (1) The withdrawal deadline to receive a "W" is Nov 2, 2012. (2) The no show reporting period is September 5 - 14, 2012. (3) The term ends of Dec 16, 2012. (4) Day and Evening classes end on Dec 9, 2012.

	Astronomy	FALL 2012	Professor Juan P. Rivera
week#	HW due date	Reading	Comments
week-1	1-Sep-12	Ch. 1 Discovering the night sky	Homework #1 due
week-2	8-Sep-12	Ch. 2 Gravitation	Homework #2 due
week-3	15-Sep-12	Ch. 3 Light and Telescopes	Homework #3 due Exam 1 CH 1,2,3
week-4	22-Sep-12	Ch. 5 Formation of the solar system	Homework #4 due
week-5	29-Sep-12	Ch. 6 Earth and Moon	Homework #5 due
week-6	6-Oct-12	Ch. 7 The other planets	Homework #6 due Exam 2 CH 5,6,7
week-7	13-Oct-12	Ch. 8 The outer planets	Homework #7 due
week-8	20-Oct-12	Ch. 10 The Sun	Homework #8 due
week-9	27-Oct-12	Ch. 11 Stars part 1	Homework #9 due Exam 3 CH 8,10,11
week-10	3-Nov-12	Ch. 12 The life of a star	Homework #10 due
week-11	10-Nov-12	Ch. 13 Death of Stars	Homework #11 due
week-12	17-Nov-12	Ch. 14 Black holes	Homework #12 due Exam 4 CH 12 & 13
week-13	24-Nov-12	Ch. 15 The Milky Way	Homework #13 due
week-14	1-Dec-12	Ch. 16 Galaxies	Homework #14 due
week-15	5-Dec-12	FINAL EXAM	CH 14,15,16

date	Assessment	chapters included
9/18/2012	Exam-1	1,2,3
10/9/2012	Exam-2	5,6,7
10/30/2012	Exam-3 (midterm)	8,10,11
11/19/2012	Exam-4	12 and 13
12/6/2012	Exam-5 (final)	14,15,16

Announcements: I will be making announcements periodically to keep you inform of the course progress. You are responsible for the content of each announcement because they form part of this course.

Blackboard Environment: In the course website there is a link to access the BLACKBOARD TUTORIAL. All you have to do is click this link and take the Blackboard tutorial. If you have a technical problem with Blackboard you must call the help desk 407-582-5600. They are available 24/7. Sometimes when taking an Exam the Blackboard environment may misbehave. If that happens to you, just call the help desk immediately. Make sure that you read the instructions for each exam before answering any question. I don't deal with Blackboard technical problems. You are responsible to have access to Blackboard via any available computer at any time from any part of the world.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE: I will send you feedback if you missed a homework question. Some students get emotional when points are deducted from their work. Please consider that I am in charge of this course and is my responsibility to indicate the right answer to any homework or assessment question. I am trying to help you learned the correct concepts. Astronomy is an exact science and there is only one correct answer to any question. I will not tolerate offensive e-mail sent to me. As a registered student, you must assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that show respect to your professors. Any offensive e-mail to your instructor will be dealt accordingly.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with me, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is defined as claiming as your own a paper, report, article, or speech which in whole or in part was prepared by someone other than yourself. Cheating on an exam or copying someone else's work is also a

violation of this policy. A violation of this policy can result in failure of an assignment, the entire course, or your current status as an active student. Each student is expected to be informed and compliant with the college policy on academic honesty as stated in the Student Handbook.

Expected Student Conduct: Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the course environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of the course will be held responsible. Violation of any Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Valencia Student Core Competencies: Valencia faculty have defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, ACT) that prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the college catalog. In this course, through homework, exams and projects, and any other learning activities, you will further develop your mastery of those competencies.

Computer/Equipment Use Policy: When you are logged to Blackboard you are being monitored by the appropriate personnel. Modifying any software system configuration or settings of the Blackboard system will result in a violation of the school policies. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary actions against the violator. You cannot send global e-mails to students and or faculty. The flow of e-mails is strictly between the student and me. When working in the Blackboard environment you cannot send e-mails to other students unless is cleared by me. If you are using any computer of Valencia College you must abide by the school policies. Use of computers in the departmental open lab is limited to those activities involved with preparing homework or coursework in this department and is subject to the same restriction as listed above. You are responsible to have a computer that can be connected to the Blackboard environment from anywhere in the world via the internet to complete the requirements of this course.

Revised by: Prof. Juan P. Rivera: August 28, 2012