

Physics 174
Course Syllabus

30 August, 2006

Welcome to Physics 174, Solar System Astronomy. In this course, you will learn about the Solar System and our place within it. This course will emphasize how we know what we know, how our knowledge of the Solar System has changed as astronomy developed as a science, and how science and other aspects of our culture interact.

Venue: CNS 208, MWF 2 pm

Instructor: Dr. Gregory C. Sloan
CNS 272 (or 271)
gsloan@ithaca.edu (best method to contact me)
274-3849 at Ithaca College (don't use the voicemail)
255-7504 at Cornell (no voicemail)

Course website: <http://www.ithaca.edu/faculty/gsloan/ph174/>

Pre-requisites: None

Text: Chaisson and McMillan, *Astronomy Today, 5th Ed., Vol. I* (Prentice Hall, 2004)

Suggested reading: Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution* (Harvard, 1992)

Organization:	Unit I	The Birth of Astronomy	13 lectures
	Unit II	Light	4 lectures
	Unit III	Modern Planetary Astronomy	16 lectures
	Unit IV	Special Topics	4 lectures

Grading: Your final grade is based on:

2 midterm exams	20 % each
1 final exam	30 %
homework and quizzes	30 %

Your final grade will be based on your score and rank relative to other students and not on any absolute scores.

Homework

Students will be responsible for several homework assignments over the course of the semester. Details on how these should be submitted can be found on the course website, in the section on administrative issues.

Quizzes

You will take quizzes about once every week or two, in class. While attendance in lecture is not mandatory, no make-up quizzes will be offered.

Academic Honesty

You are responsible for following the Ithaca College Student Conduct Code and Standards of Academic Conduct, which are available on the web at:

Student Conduct Code

http://www.ithaca.edu/attorney/policies/vol7/Volume_7-70102.htm

Standards of Academic Conduct

http://www.ithaca.edu/attorney/policies/vol7/Volume_7-70104.htm

Section 7.1.2.3.3. states the essential rule underlying the various standards:

"... work submitted by a student should be the result of that student's own honest effort. If other sources are consulted, they should be acknowledged. ..."

Students will be graded on their own work. The instructor will gladly address any questions on this matter. Bear in mind that as a student at Ithaca College, you are expected to understand and carry out your responsibilities. Violations of the standards of academic conduct will be dealt with mercilessly.