

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS – PHS 556

Astrophysics

Summer II 2006

Meeting Time & Place: M-Th 4:30 – 7:30 pm; PSH-356

Instructor: Dr. Carl Covatto

Office: PSF-411

Hours: by appointment

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TEXTBOOK: Undecided

GOALS

The course will incorporate together lectures, discussions, and group activities, including use of Internet resources and computer laboratory experiments in support of class material. Teachers will learn how to obtain astronomical data using the World Wide Web and use it to conduct research.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please make every effort to attend each class as it will be very unlikely to be able to schedule a make-up exercise. If you cannot make class, please contact me about it as soon as you are able. More than one unexcused absence will result in a one letter grade reduction in your grade.

GRADES

Grade Scale

A+	>95%	B+	84-86 %	C+	74-76 %
A	90-95 %	B	80-83 %	C	70-73 %
A-	87-89 %	B-	77-79 %	D	60-69 %
				E	< 60 %

Grade Breakdown

Lab activities	60 %
In-class exercises, homework, discussion questions, group work	40 %

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

July 2	Week 1: Light, spectra, telescopes, measuring stellar properties
July 3	
July 5	
July 9	Week 2: Introduction to astronomical data sets, The Sloan Digital Sky Survey Class time will center on obtaining astronomical data from the SDSS database.
July 10	
July 11	
July 12	
July 16	Week 3: The interstellar medium
July 17	
July 18	
July 19	
July 23	Week 4: Cosmological models, Hubble diagram, Wedge diagram The projects this week will require obtaining sets of appropriate data to produce a Hubble diagram (expansion of the universe) and a wedge diagram (shows large scale structure in the universe). Class time will focus on cosmological models. Presentation of results
July 24	
July 25	
July 26	
July 30	
July 31	Semester Wrap-up