

Astronomy 3X03: Galaxies and Cosmology

<http://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/astron3x03/>

Instructor: Laura Parker
Office: ABB-350
Phone: 905 525 9140 ext 27348
Email: lparker@mcmaster.ca

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday @ 1:30 in ETB B121

Suggested Text Books:

An Introduction to Modern Astrophysics (Second Edition)
Carroll & Ostlie, Pearson Addison Wesley
(strongly recommended if you are also planning to take 3Y03, or
intending to go on in astronomy/astrophysics)

Galaxies in the Universe: an Introduction (Second Edition)
Sparke & Gallagher, Cambridge University Press

Introduction to Cosmology
Ryden, Benjamin Cummings

This course will start 'locally' with a look at the stars and interstellar medium of the Milky Way and nearby galaxies. We will then move outwards to discuss the formation and evolution of galaxies and large scale structure, concluding the course with topics in observational and theoretical cosmology.

Marking Scheme:

Assignments 25%
Mid-term 20%
Project 20%
Final 35%

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. *(i.e. You must not take solutions to problems from the web or another external source. In general homework problems are self-contained and only course material should be used to obtain solutions.)*
2. Improper collaboration in group work. *(e.g. Discussion of homework problems is ok. However, you may not copy the work of another student.)*
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we might choose to use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism on content submitted on Avenue to Learn. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work via Avenue to Learn (to be checked by Turnitin.com) must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity