Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

PHSC 121
INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An overview of the principles of astronomy as related to the Solar System for non-science majors. An optional three-hour weekly lab will be offered coincident with this course.

RATIONALE
This course provides an introduction to the science of astronomy and the vastness of creation beyond our planet’s atmosphere. The course will include discussion of the planets and their environments, including the crucial issues which make human life impossible on each. Some emphasis will be placed on the special environmental conditions and balances extant on Earth which make it unique in its support of human life. PHSC 121 is an approved general education science course for non-technical (science, math, and engineering) majors.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office
D. TV and DVD player

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Recognize and apply fundamental concepts of astronomy.
B. Describe the basic mechanics and make-up of the Solar System and its constituents.
C. Recognize order in nature and consistency and operation of natural laws related to astronomy.
D. Identify how a basic understanding of astronomy relates to everyday life.
E. Identify the relationship between general and special revelation as it relates to creation.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook and website resource readings, DVD, and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

   Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 1 classmate’s thread. Each reply must be at least 125 words.

D. Short-Response Questions (5)

   For each Short-Response Question, the student will submit a written response to the provided prompt. Each response must be 125–200 words. Each response requires careful thought and planning in order to provide an adequate answer without any extraneous details.

E. Reflection Paper

   The student will write a 2–3-page Reflection Paper in response to the provided prompt. While the paper will be more subjective and personal than a research paper, the student must maintain an academic tone and provide support for any claims he or she makes. The paper must include at least 2 references specific to creation and/or Young Earth creationism, not including the course textbook, other assigned readings and presentations, or the Bible. The paper must follow current APA format and included a title page and bibliography. The title page and bibliography do not counts towards the length requirement.

F. Homework (16)

   The student will complete various online exercises in Pearson’s MasteringAstronomy program. These homework assignments will reinforce the content of the course textbook readings. The student will have up to 3 attempts on each question in order to earn points toward the total.

G. Quizzes (8)

   Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 30 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

VI. **Course Grading and Policies**

A. Points
Course Requirements Checklist 10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 60 pts ea) 120
Short-Response Questions (5 at 30 pts ea) 150
Reflection Paper 90
Homework (16 at 10 pts ea) 160
Quizzes (8 at 60 pts ea) 480

**Total** 1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

**PHSC 121**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/ WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 1–2  
3 presentations  
1 website  
MasteringAstronomy | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
Short-Response Question 1  
Homework 1  
Homework 2  
Quiz 1 | 10  
0  
30  
10  
10  
60 |
| 2            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 3, 5  
2 presentations  
1 DVD  
2 websites  
MasteringAstronomy | DB Forum 1  
Homework 3  
Homework 4  
Quiz 2 | 60  
10  
10  
60 |
| 3            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 6–7  
2 presentations  
1 DVD  
4 websites  
MasteringAstronomy | Short-Response Question 2  
Homework 5  
Homework 6  
Quiz 3 | 30  
10  
10  
60 |
| 4            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 8–9  
2 presentations  
1 DVD  
2 websites  
MasteringAstronomy | Short-Response Question 3  
Homework 7  
Homework 8  
Quiz 4 | 30  
10  
10  
60 |
| 5            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 10–11  
2 presentations  
1 DVD  
2 websites  
MasteringAstronomy | Short-Response Question 4  
Homework 9  
Homework 10  
Quiz 5 | 30  
10  
10  
60 |
| 6            | Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 12–13  
1 presentation  
3 websites  
MasteringAstronomy | DB Forum 2  
Homework 11  
Homework 12  
Quiz 6 | 60  
10  
10  
60 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Module/Week</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reading &amp; Study</strong></th>
<th><strong>Assignments</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chaisson &amp; McMillan: chs. 14, 16</td>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
<td>Homework 13</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 websites</td>
<td>Homework 14</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>MasteringAstronomy</td>
<td>Quiz 7</td>
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<td>Chaisson &amp; McMillan: chs. 17, 28</td>
<td>Short-Response Question 5</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>2 presentations</td>
<td>Homework 15</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 websites</td>
<td>Homework 16</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MasteringAstronomy</td>
<td>Quiz 8</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.