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 <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

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 Word

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 the 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. 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.

F. 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 55 pts ea)		110
Short-Response Questions (5 at 50 pts ea)		250
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. 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—SUMMER(14-WEEK)

PHSC 121

Textbook: Chaisson & McMillan, *Astronomy Today* (2018).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 1–2 1 presentation MasteringAstronomy	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Homework 1, 2	10 0 20
2	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 1–2 2 presentations MasteringAstronomy	Short-Response Question 1 Quiz 1	50 60
3	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 3, 5 1 presentation 1 website MasteringAstronomy	DB Forum 1 Thread Homework 3, 4	40 20
4	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 3, 5 1 presentation 1 DVD MasteringAstronomy	DB Forum 1 Reply Quiz 2	15 60
5	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 6–7 1 presentation 3 websites MasteringAstronomy	Homework 5, 6	20
6	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 6–7 1 presentation 1 DVD 1 website MasteringAstronomy	Short-Response Question 2 Quiz 3	50 60
7	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 8–9 1 presentation 1 website MasteringAstronomy	Homework 7, 8	20
8	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 8–9 1 presentation 1 DVD 1 website MasteringAstronomy	Short-Response Question 3 Quiz 4	50 60

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
9	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 10–11 2 presentations 1 DVD 2 websites MasteringAstronomy	Homework 9, 10 Short-Response Question 4 Quiz 5	20 50 60
10	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 12–13 1 presentation 1 website MasteringAstronomy	DB Forum 2 Thread Homework 11, 12	40 20
11	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 12–13 2 websites 1 required reading MasteringAstronomy	DB Forum 2 Reply Quiz 6	15 60
12	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 14, 16 2 websites MasteringAstronomy	Homework 13, 14	20
13	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 14, 16 1 presentation 1 website MasteringAstronomy	Short-Response Question 5 Quiz 7	50 60
14	Chaisson & McMillan: chs. 17, 28 2 presentations 2 websites MasteringAstronomy	Homework 15, 16 Quiz 8	20 60
		TOTAL	**1010**

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**.