WELCOME TO GENERAL ASTRONOMY 100 ONLINE  (Section 14000)  -  
SPRING 2015

Welcome to online astronomy 100. In this class we survey the content and dynamics of 
the solar system; the earth and its motions; time and the calendar; moon, eclipses, and 
tides; physics of the sun, planets, comets and meteorites, including their dynamical 
aspects and motions. Principles, logic, and development of stellar astronomy, as well as 
physics of the stars, stellar type populations, stellar evolution; stellar organizations, 
galaxies, and cosmology are also included. UC credit limitation: No credit for ASTRON- 
100 if taken after 101 or 102.

Please read this entire letter and syllabus prior to purchasing texts and/or registering for 
the online systems. If you plan to purchase a book early (any used or rented text) and are 
unsure if your text with mastering astronomy is appropriate for the course, contact me 
first (Elizabeth.bell@canyons.edu).

As the title illustrates, this is an entirely online course. All lecture, homework, quizzes, 
and exams will be given online through two systems:

1. Blackboard

- Once you register for the course you are automatically enrolled in the course 
  website, Blackboard, which can be found https://bb9.canyons.edu
- This is the main area in which to download your lectures as well as receive I 
  announcements I may post. I will also make announced appearances in the 
  chat room for live office hours as well as check the discussion boards to help 
  out. Please take time to go through the site tutorial to learn about all the 
  features available to you. There will be discussion boards on which you may 
  post questions that your fellow classmates may help you with, a chat room 
  that you can use with your classmates or me, private message options, and 
  resource links (in which I may put supplemental or links to interesting sites).
- Instructions for entering your username and password can be found on the 
  same page.
- Let me know if you have trouble logging in as this is a short course and there 
  is much to cover quickly. The course website will be where you will 
  download lecture material, receive announcements, communicate with me, 
  and your fellow classmates, and ask questions.
- Once in, please familiarize yourself with your website. Try out the tabs, 
  navigate the page, go to the discussion boards and introduce yourselves, etc…
- You need to introduce yourself AND complete the syllabus/orientation 
  letter quiz in the assignments section on Blackboard by the fourth day of 
  class, February 12, or you will be dropped as a no-show!
• You should plan on checking the class website at least 2 times per day to keep up with any new announcements or help each other.
• If you need help with the Blackboard system, you can also call Tech support at (661) 362-3344.

2. **Mastering Astronomy**

• The other part of the course is the online homework management system. You can register at [www.masteringastronomy.com](http://www.masteringastronomy.com)
• If you are registering for the first time, click the ‘STUDENTS’ tab on the home page.
• If you have an access code (found bundled in select NEW books only) indicate that you have a code and set up your account.
  o Once your account is set up, log into mastering astronomy and look for your course.
• If you do not have an access code and need to purchase one online, choose that option.
  o You are then directed to the page in which you choose your book. Choose the correct book for the course! (Even if you are using a different book from which to study)
  o You may then go on to create your account.
• Follow the prompts to register and once in, find the course ID:

  **Course ID: will be given in syllabus to registered students** (which will open the evening before the start of term)

• This is what you will use to find your class.
• For support with mastering astronomy, go to the following link and choose your method of support (I recommend the live chat).
  [http://www.masteringastronomy.com/site/support/faq-students.html](http://www.masteringastronomy.com/site/support/faq-students.html)

• **You need to complete the introduction to mastering astronomy assignment by the fifth day of class, February 14, or you will be dropped due to lack of activity!**

• It is **imperative** that you choose the correct book during the registration process. We will be using *Astronomy: A Beginner’s Guide to the Universe, 7th edition*, by Chaisson and McMillan, ISBN: **0321814916**
Homework and quiz dates will be listed on your mastering astronomy course home page under assignments. There will be multiple homework, some extra credit, and quiz assignments per week. There is one of each homework, and quiz per chapter, and for each exam, in which 3-4 chapters per exam will be covered.

As everything in the class is online, I suggest you work through this checklist to see if online is right for you:

- Do you have access to a computer with cable or high-speed internet access? (Note: You may use campus computers for free during normal business hours)
- Are you able to work (for the most part) independent of the instructor? You will be required to read the book and lecture notes and do assignments based on the readings. The instructor will be available online or on campus to help with specific questions and help with homework.
- Are you computer literate? You must know how to send and receive e-mail, including attachments, follow online instructions, navigate web pages, etc…
- Are you comfortable enough with reading and English to work through your text? There is a lot of reading, and content can be fairly advanced.
- Are you able to read PowerPoint files (either through Microsoft Office or Open Office)? Do you have Flash and Adobe Reader installed? (If not you need to install these three programs to be able to work through the class)

If you answered ‘No’ to any of these questions (except the last which is a requirement), you may want to consider an on-campus version of the class.

The textbook is bundled at the college bookstore with mastering astronomy bundled for free. If you choose to buy the text used, you must purchase mastering astronomy (required) separately on the website (~$60). All homework will be done through mastering astronomy. You need the text to answer study guide questions. Though many astronomy books are similar, accepted answers for multiple choice and short answer/essays will be text and lecture specific.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions as you proceed through the class.

Campus Map
Instructor
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I may answer more quickly if you use the private message feature in Blackboard to contact me.