

SCP 140: Topics in Astronomy—Syllabus, Fall 2015.

Instructor: Mr. Fuentes

E-mail: gfuentes@schools.nyc.gov

Time: Wed. & Thurs. 2:40 PM-4:10 PM

Office Hours: M - F: 10:45 AM- 1:00 PM

Classroom: 302

Prep Room: 211

Textbook: Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, Voit. "The Essential Cosmic Perspective (7th edition)."

Course Description: This is an introductory astronomy course for non-science majors. The course objective is to provide the basic knowledge of the Solar System and the Universe outside the Solar System. No previous astronomy experience is required.

Prerequisites: 70+ ELA Regents (or) 75 GPA Eng. and Science

Course Credit: 3 Credits; 45 Hours

Evaluation: The grade in this course will be based on the 3 non-cumulative exams 70%, homework 20%, and laboratory/activities 10%.

Homework	20 points
Laboratory	10 points
3 exams	70 points
Total	100 points

Grading Scale:

Percent Grade

94-100	A+	74-76	C
90-93	A	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

College Now grades include A/A-/B+/B-/C+/C, which will grant you credit. However students earning less than a C will receive a grade of "NC" (No Credit), which is equivalent to an F.

Homework: Assignments for this course consist of readings and problems. Generally each week a problem set consisting of about 6-10 problems will be assigned. It is important that you understand all the problems assigned. Assigned homeworks have due dates that you are expected to comply with. Under exceptional circumstances you might be granted an extension at my discretion.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and one final non-cumulative exam consisting of multiple choice problems/questions.

- **Midterm exam 1:** Prior to end of Marking Period 1 (date to be announced)
- **Midterm exam 2:** Prior to end of Marking Period 2 (date to be announced)
- **Final exam** will take place during the finals period, the specific date and time to be announced.

On exams both quantitative and qualitative questions will be asked.

Laboratory: We will do various activities during the lab segment of the course, and you will write short reports regarding these activities. Students must complete and hand in all reports. Although laboratory counts only 10% of the grade, a student cannot receive a passing grade without completing all the requirements.

Course Schedule: Please check the class calendar.

Office Hours: I will be happy to help you during my prep period and/or lunch hours, by appointment only. Please try to respect my available time as much as possible.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at all class sessions, lecture and laboratory, is essential for proper understanding and mastery of the course material. A student who is absent from more than one laboratory session seriously jeopardizes his/her grade. Students missing more than 15% of classes will receive grades of NC / No Credit.

College Now Policy: By filling out the application for College Now, you are enrolling in a college course, and accepting the responsibilities of a college student. If you are absent twice during the first two weeks of class, or find this course too challenging, please speak to your instructor about dropping the class. If you drop a course before September 21, you will have no record on the central database known as CUNYfirst. If you remain in the class but do not attend or fail to do the work, you will be withdrawn and earn a "W" grade. A "W" grade, like an "NC" (No Credit) will stay on your permanent college record, and can be detrimental to you when you enter college.

Academic Integrity Policy: Instructors of this course are required to implement the College Policy regarding cheating on examinations and quizzes. A complete statement of the policy is available at the student counseling services center at La Guardia Community College.