Syllabus: Solar System Astronomy
ASTR 111
Radford University – Fall 2009
Professor Jack Brockway

Class Meeting
MWF, 2:00 – 2:50 PM, McGuffey 206; Labs meet in Curie 145 at 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm, Monday (Section 1) OR Wednesday (Section 3).

While there is no specific attendance policy, material covered in class that is not in the textbook. Furthermore, there may (and probably will) be occasional pop quizzes — these will be treated as additional homework assignments in your final grade.

Contact/Office Hours
MWF, 10 am to 12 noon

In addition to these times, I am easy to reach at 831-5828 – call me to set up any alternate meeting times. My web page is www.radford.edu/brockway.

Textbook

The laboratory manual is online – you need not purchase a lab manual.

Tests & Exam
There are three tests and a comprehensive final exam; dates are indicated on the calendar below. Makeup tests will not be permitted without prior permission or very good reason (with supporting documentation). Tests will be in-class, and will involve short-answer questions and problems to solve. You will be allowed the following:

- pen and/or pencil
- scientific calculator — anything with exponents and trigonometric functions should be sufficient
- formula sheet — you may write anything you wish on a single 4x6 (or smaller) notecard. The notecard may not be allowed on all tests.

You are responsible for bringing these items. No other resources will be allowed for the test. **Cell phones are forbidden on tests. The use of a cell phone during a test will result in a score of zero on that test.**

Homework
Homework will be done online using WebCT. There will be about one assignment per week.
Quizzes
Unannounced quizzes will, from time-to-time, be held. Each will count as a homework assignment in your final grade. Making up these quizzes will only be permitted in extraordinary circumstances.

Laboratory
Labs will meet in Curie 145, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm, Monday (section 1) and Wednesday (section 2).

A number of the labs will be outside — dress accordingly. While most of these outside will be to observe with telescopes, there may be labs that do not require clear weather; just because it's cloudy does not mean we will not go out.

Planetarium
A visit to the planetarium will count as a lab grade. Planetarium shows are every Tuesday and Thursday evening. You must get a signed slip of paper indicating your attendance from the person running the show.

Course Evaluation
There are six equally-weighted components to your grade:

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3
- Final Exam
- Homework
- Lab

We will use a 10-point grading scale: 90+ is an A, 80-89 is a B, 70-79 is a C, 60-69 is a D; grades below 60 are failing.

Academic Honesty
The Radford University Honor Code provides the foundation for a university community in which freedom, trust and respect can prevail. In accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to support and uphold the Honor Code without compromise or exception.

Cheating and falsifying information will be dealt with severely. Anyone found guilty of cheating (or submitting other fraudulent information) will receive a failing grade for the course, and the matter will be forwarded through Radford University's Judicial Process.

Judicial procedures can have serious consequences – much more so than the impact of any single grade. Please don't provoke such action.

Cell Phones
The use of cell phones during tests is not permitted. Anyone using a cell phone during a test will receive a zero for that test.

Special Notes
At the end of this syllabus is a special notice about H1N1 flu (also known as the Swine Flu). It is expected that southwest Virginia will be significantly impacted this year – please respond appropriately.
Semester Schedule  
**Astronomy 111 – Fall 2009**

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<th>Week Of</th>
<th>Chapter(s)</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Patterns in the Sky/Earth’s Motion</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gravity &amp; Orbital Motion</td>
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<td>Sept 21</td>
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<td>Light</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tools of Astronomy</td>
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<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Solar System history</td>
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<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Terrestrial Worlds</td>
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<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Terrestrial Atmospheres</td>
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<td>Oct 26</td>
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<td>Gas Giants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gravity, part 2</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Moons, Rings, and other Neat Things</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Interplanetary Debris</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
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<td>The Sun</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
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<td>Structure/Life</td>
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December 16 (Wed), 10:15 – 12:15 AM  
FINAL EXAM; this comprehensive exam will cover all material covered during the semester.

*This schedule is subject to minor changes during the course of the semester. Suitable notice will be given in class – you will be responsible for being aware of such changes.
Syllabus Supplement
H1N1 Preparation and Planning

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus of swine origin that first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April, 2009. It’s thought that novel influenza A (H1N1) flu spreads in the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread, mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus, but it may also be spread by touching infected objects and then touching your nose or mouth. Novel H1N1 infection has been reported to cause a wide range of flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. In addition, many people also have reported nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

As you may know, flu can be spread easily from person to person. Therefore, steps are being taken to prevent the spread of flu at Radford University for as long as possible, **but we need your help to accomplish this**.

We are working closely with the regional and Commonwealth of Virginia health departments to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning our institution. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to us through links through your course faculty member using various virtual communication portals.

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our institution operating as usual. The following information is provided by the Center for Disease control including general preventative care that you can take to lessen the impact of the flu season on the campus:

Over the next few weeks you will see additional hand sanitization stations in many Radford University academic buildings, residence halls, food service locations, computer labs, and student centers. We encourage you to use the hand sanitizers frequently and especially when you are working at computer stations or using restroom facilities. Remember, hand sanitizers do not replace hand washing with soap and water.

**If you become ill please access the Student Health Web Site through the RU Portal for detailed information and guidance from the Student Health Center.**