

**Time:** 10:40 AM – 11:55 AM

**Location:** M, W online

**Semester:** Fall 2020

**Contact Information:** [jbellovary@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:jbellovary@qcc.cuny.edu)

**Instructor:** Professor Jillian Bellovary

**Office:** online, see link on Blackboard

**Office Hours:** Mon 12-1, 2-3 & Tues 1-2pm

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**Course Description:** Space, Astronomy, and our Universe discusses topics related to space and astronomy, beginning with our planet and our Moon, and extending to stars, galaxies, and the Universe as a whole. This course will explore physical processes and laws that govern the motion and evolution of all objects in the Universe, including planets, stars and galaxies.



**Online Class:** We will meet “in person” using Blackboard Collaborate during scheduled class time (10:40 am - 11:55 am). There are also **online lectures** that you will watch outside of class. You must watch and make a minimum of three comments on every lecture to receive full participation credit. Class time will be used for activities, demonstrations, and other fun stuff. Attendance “in class” is required, and we start promptly at 10:40 am. Please arrive a few minutes early.



**Inclusivity:** I strive to create a classroom environment that is inclusive of all people, regardless of gender/orientation/race/immigration status/class/religion/ability/etc. If you have a disability, preferred gender pronoun, or other thing that you would like to communicate to me so that I can improve your classroom experience, I welcome an email or please visit my office hours if you’d like to discuss it in person.



**Blackboard:** We will use Blackboard for class, online lectures and the submission of all writing assignments. Additionally, I will post any lecture slides, homework assignments, in-class activities, and study guides on Blackboard. I may use Blackboard to contact you (which usually is an email to your campus email account). It is crucial that you are able to access Blackboard and understand how to use it. Take the “Are You Ready?” course on Blackboard if you need help figuring it all out.



**Writing Intensive:** A requirement for students at Queensborough Community College is that at least two classes taken be designated as writing intensive (WI). The purpose is to facilitate and foster writing abilities at the college level. In this class, as in all WI sections, the following features are incorporated: (1) Students will spend time during the semester writing in the service of learning. (2) A minimum of 10 pages of writing will be assigned. (3) The professor will respond to and return these 10 pages at least once so that students have an opportunity to revise the paper (or papers) before a final grade is given. (4) Writing will be discussed regularly in class. (5) Students’ written work will be a significant part of the course grade. (6) At least one exam will have a written component.



**Required Materials:** Textbook: The Cosmic Perspective Fundamentals, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition



**Course Schedule:** There are 3 main units in this course:



*Unit 1: The Basics of Astronomy*

- Topics: celestial motions, observing, our solar system
- Midterm exam: **Monday October 7**



*Unit 2: Light and Stars*

- Topics: light, types of stars, our Sun, stellar evolution
- Midterm exam: **Monday November 9**



*Unit 3: Galaxies and Cosmology*

- Topics: Our Milky Way, other galaxies, the structure of the universe
- Final exam: date **TBA**

Course schedule and exam dates are subject to change.



**Grading scheme:**

Midterm Exam 1: 15%

Midterm Exam 2: 15%

Final exam: 17%

Online Lecture Comments: 20%

Writing Assignments: 25%

Attendance in online classes: 5%

Homework: 3%



**Late Homework Policy:** All assignments are due at the start of class time (10:40 am). If you know you will miss a deadline, communicate this to me before the deadline and we can discuss an extension that works for you. If you submit homework late, but only by one day, you can get 50% credit. Homework more than 24 hours late will receive no points.



**Academic Integrity:** Homework assignments should be your own writing, except possibly for short, **cited** quotes from websites or textbooks, if appropriate.

Typical consequences for some Academic Integrity violations:

- **First offense:** A grade of 0% on the assignment. This grade cannot be dropped.
- **Second offense:** An F in the class and the filing of a report with the Office of Student Affairs.

According to the College's Academic Integrity policy, you must avoid plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, and all forms of academic misconduct. For more information, consult the College Catalog, as well as this document: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>

This syllabus is subject to change.