ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

Department of Physics and Astronomy
College of Natural Science

101 The Celestial Clockworks
Spring. 1(0-1) Relationship between ancient skylore and timekeeping. Establishment of a calendar and celestial navigation. Development of the Greek horoscope as a time recorder and coordinate system.

207 The Science of Astronomy
Fall. 3(3-0) P: (PHY 231 or concurrently) or (PHY 183 or concurrently) or (ISP 205 or concurrently) or (PHY 231C or concurrently) or (PHY 183B or concurrently) or (LB 271 or concurrently) or (PHY 231C or concurrently) and (MTH 114 or concurrently) or (MTH 116 or concurrently). In-depth study of one topic in astronomy with emphasis on key discoveries. Topics may be cosmology, the solar system, and the life of stars. Observing with portable telescopes.

301 Junior Research Seminar
Fall, Spring. 1(1-0) P: Completion of Tier I writing requirement. Preparation and presentation of a review paper on a current topic in astronomy or astrophysics.

304 Stars
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) P: AST 208 and PHY 215 and (PHY 321 or concurrently) SA: AST 401 Physical processes that determine the structure and evolution of stars. Observations of stars and star clusters. Spectra of stars.

308 Galaxies and Cosmology
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) P: AST 208 and PHY 215 and (PHY 321 or concurrently) SA: AST 402 The Milky Way. Structure and content of galaxies. Active galaxies and quasars. The expanding universe. Modern cosmological models.

310 Directed Studies
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 4 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department. Individual study or project in astronomy or astrophysics under the direction of a faculty member.

410 Senior Thesis
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 5 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: (AST 301) and completion of Tier I writing requirement. Design and execute an original experiment or computation. A written and oral report of the research is required.

800 Research Methods
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: AST 801 Apprenticeship in astrophysical research. Student will work closely with faculty member to learn research techniques.

805 Research Project
Fall, Spring. 3(0-3) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. Research project to be completed under the guidance of an astronomy faculty member.

810 Radiation Astrophysics
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) Transfer of radiation through plasmas and processes for emission and absorption of photons. Interpretation of the spectra of stars, the interstellar medium, and galaxies.

820 Advanced Topics in Astrophysics
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: AST 801 Advanced work in a specialized astrophysical topic.

825 Galactic Astronomy
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) The Milky Way as a galaxy. Observations and techniques of theoretical analysis that are used to discover the features of our galaxy.

835 Extragalactic Astronomy
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) Galaxies beyond the Milky Way. Large-scale structure of the universe. Cosmology.

840 Stellar Astrophysics
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) Physics of stellar interiors. Methods for calculating stellar models. Principles of stellar evolution.

850 Electrodynamics of Plasmas
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics. Administered by Electrical and Computer Engineering. RB: ECE 835 or PHY 488 SA: EE 850 Plasma kinetic and macroscopic plasma transport theory. Electromagnetic wave propagation and charged particle diffusion processes in plasma. Electromagnetic energy absorption via elastic and inelastic collisions. Dc, rf, and microwave discharges.

860 Gravitational Astrophysics
Fall, 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PHY 820 and PHY 841 Experimental foundations, theory, and applications of gravitational physics and general relativity. Tests of the equivalence principle, modern solar system tests of general relativity, Schwarzschild metric, Hawking effect, Einstein’s field equations.

899 Master’s Thesis Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 120 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to doctoral students in the Astronomy and Astrophysics major. Doctoral dissertation research.

911 Numerical Techniques in Astronomy
Spring of odd years. 2(2-0) P: PHY 810 and PHY 820 or approval of department Numerical solutions to key problems in astronomy and astrophysics. N-body gravitational calculations, hydrodynamics in astronomy, radiative transfer, and techniques for large datasets. Offered first half of semester.

912 Observational Astronomy
Spring of even years. 2(2-0) P: PHY 820 or approval of department R: Open to graduate students in the Astrophysics and Astronomy major. Fundamentals of observational astronomy. Aspects of telescope and instrument design, astronomical observations at visible and near-infrared wavelengths, X-ray observations, and data analysis techniques.

999 Doctoral Dissertation Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 120 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to doctoral students in the Astronomy and Astrophysics major. Doctoral dissertation research.

AST—Astronomy and Astrophysics