

ASTRONOMY 10

Stellar Astronomy De Anza College Fall 2026

Instructor: Eric Peterson, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:00 to 4:50 p.m. on Zoom

Textbook: <https://openstax.org/details/books/astronomy>

(Select your preferred option under the header: Get This Book.)

Introduction

Astronomy 10 is an introductory course which is intended to provide a survey of our knowledge of the stars, galaxies, and of the entire universe. We will examine both the history of humanity's quest to understand the cosmos as well as the current state of that understanding. The course has no prerequisites. However De Anza College does advise the following: English Writing 1A or English as a Second Language 5. The class is taught with the non-science major in mind.

Format

I am trying to keep things simple. Each week I would like you to do the following:

1. Read the assigned reading for that week
2. Watch assigned powerpoint lecture(s)
3. Watch assigned video(s)
4. Take a short quiz

The reading assignments are on the next page of the syllabus. In addition there will be a midterm exam during week six and a final exam the week of December 8.

Exams and Grades

Your class grade will be based on weekly quizzes, a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. All will be online through Canvas. The quizzes will constitute 50% of your grade; your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. The midterm and the final will each be 25% of your grade. The questions will all be of the T/F or multiple choice variety.

Please note: The Final Exam must be passed in order to pass the class.

Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1. September 21	1, 2.1-2.3
2. September 28	2.4, 3, 4.1-4.2, 4.5-4.7
3. October 5	5-6
4. October 12	15-16
5. October 19	17-19
6. October 26	20, 21.1-21.2, 22
7. November 2	23-24
8. November 9	25
9. November 16	26-27
10. November 23	28
11. November 30	29
12. December 7	Final Exam

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Appraise the benefits to society of astronomical research concerning stars and stellar systems.
- Evaluate the impact on Earth's characteristics of the evolution of stars and stellar systems.
- Evaluate astronomical news items or theories about stellar astronomy based upon the scientific method.

Office Hours:

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM

Zoom T,W