

## Astronomy – Syllabus - Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Ms. Diakoff

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Webpage:** can be accessed via [www.immaculateheart.org](http://www.immaculateheart.org)

### Course Material

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Unit 1	Observational Astronomy and Constellations	22
Unit 2	History of Astronomy	22
Unit 3	Coordinate Systems, Celestial Motions, Seasons	22
Unit 4	Solar System	23
Unit 5	Our Sun	24
Unit 6	Other Stars	25
Unit 7	Galaxies & Cosmology	25

### Required Materials

Composition Notebook (no other kind of notebook is acceptable!)

Pens or pencils in a wide variety of colors

Index cards (blank cards do not have to be brought to class)

Something to use to store your notecards

Textbook

### Classroom Rules

1. Be attentive and alert in class.
2. Be respectful to others.
3. Be helpful to your classmates.
4. You may not eat, chew gum, or drink anything other than water in class. You may not have food in class.
5. You are allowed three bathroom passes per semester. BATHROOM PASSES ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE.
6. Follow all school rules.

### Absences & Make-up work

- When you are absent, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get the notes from a classmate in a timely fashion and for staying on top of the material. Your interactive notebook must be updated (both input and output) no later than ONE DAY after you return from an absence. In the event of an extended absence (more than three days) you may see me upon your return to discuss extending this deadline.
- Make-up tests (in the event you are absent on the day of a test) are given on Tuesdays after school and Thursdays at lunch. You will need to make arrangements to take the test at one of these times, and let me know in advance when you will be doing the make-up.
- Quizzes cannot be made up. If you are absent on one of these days, you will be excused from the quiz.
- If you are absent on the day I check notecards, the notecards are due on the day you get back. It is your responsibility to show them to me that day, or you will receive a zero on the assignment.

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### Evaluations

- **Final Exam: 20% of overall grade.**
  
- **Star Parties: 10% of overall grade.**  
You are required to attend a minimum of one star party during the semester.
  - You should plan to stay at the star party for a minimum of 1-1 ½ hours after dark (depending on the star party)
  - You should take notes of the objects you see while at the star party. Later, you will write up a 1-page paper (single spaced) about your experience.
  - Extra Credit will be awarded for attending additional star parties (+2% on your overall grade in the class!)
  
- **Unit Tests**
  - o 100 points each
  - o There will be 6-7 Unit Tests
  - o We will schedule each Unit Test for a few days after the end of lecture on each unit (we will continue on with new material in the meantime); this gives you more study time and allows for more flexibility in test scheduling.
  
- **Quizzes**
  - o 10 points each
  - o Quizzes are given every Tuesday.
  - o The quizzes are one or two questions, pertain to the material from the previous week, and take 5-10 minutes.
  - o Sometimes the questions are straight from the homework.
  
- **Homework**
  - o 1-2 point(s)/page; some output pages may be worth more points (lab write-ups, for example)
  - o Homework is assigned every night.
  - o Homework is almost always completed in the interactive notebook.
  - o The homework is graded when I collect the notebooks at the end of each unit
  - o I will periodically check the notebooks for output completion (usually on Tuesdays), even if I am not collecting the notebook
  - o I grade the assignments for completion, effort, and (for problems) whether they are correct!

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### Interactive Notebook

Homework is due every day, and is done in the interactive notebook (more about this in class). If no specific assignment is given, you may complete the output section as follows:

- Find and print pictures/illustrations/diagrams that pertain to the topic & label them
- Drawing a picture & writing a caption about the picture
- Doing a Concept map with detailed connecting phrases
- Creating Graphs and Charts (Bubble maps, pie charts, Venn diagrams, Bar graphs, etc)
- Writing a paragraph that explains the information in a new way...relating the information to yourself or something you have learned before.
- Find a current event or new information that relates to the input...(use the internet, newspapers, magazines or even the Discovery Channel!)
- Write a reflection stating opinion about a controversy
- Super Creative:
  - o Comic strips
  - o Advertisements
  - o Story, poems and song lyrics
  - o Book or CD case cover
  - o Eulogies of scientists
  - o Inserts: Photographs, newspaper/magazine clippings, etc
  - o Foldables and pop-ups
  - o Your own experiment!!

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I have read and understand the syllabus:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_