

现代天文学 2015 (Modern Astronomy)

General information

Course no: 00432265
Monday 13:00 - 14:50 PM
Location: 理教103

Your teacher:
M.B.N. (Thijs) Kouwenhoven
kouwenhoven@pku.edu.cn

Your student assistants:
Mr. Yunfeng Chen (陈云峰)
Mr. Zhen Guo (郭震)

Course website:
<http://kiaa.pku.edu.cn/~kouwenhoven/teaching.html>



Prerequisites

The course is suitable for all university students with a general interest in astronomy, space science, and cosmology. The lecture course will contain a limited amount of mathematics (see the lectures of last year to get an impression). The entire lecture course, including all homeworks and the final assignment, will be in English.



Contents of the lecture course

Astronomy is the oldest of all of the natural sciences, and its origins are bound up in ancient religious, mythological, and astrological practices. Through the ages, enlightening discoveries by masterminds, such as Aristotle, Copernicus, Newton, Einstein, and Hubble, have transformed astronomy into a modern science.

Nowadays, astronomers use powerful Earth- and space-based telescopes, interplanetary missions, and supercomputers to delve into the secrets of the Universe. Despite these fundamental changes in the science of Astronomy, astronomers still focus on answering the “big questions” that have occupied mankind for centuries, such as “Where does the Universe come from?”, “What is the fate of the Earth and of our Sun?” and “Is there life elsewhere in the Universe?”

This course will provide students with an overview of astronomical research covering a wide range of topics, including the history of astronomy, the planets in our solar system, the birth, life and death of stars, black holes, galaxies, the Big Bang theory, cosmology, the search for extraterrestrial life, and space exploration.

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Examination

- 15% - Class attendance and participation (lectures 1/2/3 do not count)
- 35% - Homework (three assignments)
- 50% - Final work (essay or research project). There is no final exam.



英语



The entire lecture course, including all homeworks and the final assignment, will be in English. English spelling and grammar mistakes are unimportant (this is not an English class). For difficult astronomy words, the Chinese-English astronomy dictionary (<http://www.lamost.org/astrodict/>) may be useful. The two student assistants are Chinese, so they can also answer many of your questions in Chinese, if necessary. Whether your future career is in science, politics, or business, a good command of the English language is very helpful!

Curious?

If you are interested in taking the course, you can take a look at the PPTs of last year, which are still online at <http://kiaa.pku.edu.cn/~kouwenhoven/teaching.html>.

Statistics of the 现代天文学 2014 students

