



Valencia High School

Astronomy Course Syllabus

Mr. Davis

Phone – (661) 294-1188 ext: 812

Room 812

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Welcome to my Astronomy classroom! I am very pleased and excited about having you in my class this year. In Astronomy we will study by studying the origin of modern astronomy, galaxies, stellar evolution, the local group, and expand our knowledge of the universe. Through the process of lectures, labs/demonstrations, activities, videos, and class discussion, students will learn about Stellar processes, including constellations, the formation and death of stars, the sun, the Milky Way Galaxy, and local satellites (meteorites, asteroids, and comets). Below, I have outlined crucial information about the class dynamics and my expectations. By signing this class contract, you acknowledge your value as a member of this class and accept the responsibilities of being a member. I look forward to getting to know you this semester and hope you will find Astronomy to be a challenging but rewarding experience.

Daily Routines

- Class will begin as soon as the bell rings.
- As soon as you sit down, write the new homework assignment into your planner.
- Silently begin the warm-up that is written on the board or overhead.
- Class participation during discussion and lecture is required.
- Please remember that the bell does not dismiss you. I do!

Class Rules

- Be prepared, seated, and ready to work when the bell rings.
- Only drinks with a lid are allowed and any spills must be cleaned up immediately or this could result in the privilege being taken away.
- Be respectful towards all member of the class.
- Do not use any distracting objects in class (cell phones, i-pods, grooming objects, etc.).
- Clean up your area before leaving each day.
- Please bring required materials each day.

Textbook and Materials

The textbook used is *Foundations of Astronomy*, the ninth edition. This book is a college level textbook and is written at a higher level than most high school textbooks. Make sure you take your time and read carefully to make sure you understand the concepts. If you have any questions, please ask me before or after class. If you lose the book or would like to purchase a copy for home, please contact me and I will help you arrange the purchase.

It will be required that you bring the following materials to class everyday:

- Pencil and Pen (2 each)
- 3-ring binder for notes and handouts.
- Lined paper.

Homework

Homework is an extension of theories discussed in the classroom and is essential to your success. Be sure to keep up with the work because it represents a considerable portion of your overall grade.

- Homework is due the NEXT day at the **beginning** of class.
- Late homework turned in within two weeks after the due date will be deducted by 25%. If work is turned in after two weeks past the due date, points will be deducted by 50%. Please make sure that you get your homework in on time.
- Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure you get the missed homework assignments. In accordance with District policy, students will be allowed to complete assignments missed from an excused absence. For example, if a student is sick (1) day, they will be given (1) additional day to complete any missing work.
- Homework will be graded by both the teacher and peers, depending upon the assignment.

Grading Policy

- Grades are earned on a system of point accumulation based on quizzes/warm-ups, homework/projects, labs, tests, and class participation. The grading scale will be as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 100-94% of total possible points | = A | 77-74% = C |
| 93-90% | = A- | 73-70% = C- |
| 89-88% | = B+ | 69-68% = D+ |
| 87-84% | = B | 67-64% = D |
| 83-80% | = B- | 63-60% = D- |
| 79-78% | = C+ | 59%-0% = Fail |

Academic Integrity

The Valencia High School Science Department's *Academic Integrity* policy is consistent with the William S. Hart Union High School District Board Policy based on Education Code 44806.

Attendance Policy

Daily attendance is very important to your success in class. The school's attendance and tardy policy will be in effect in this class. Please remember, per school policy, any student absent 15 days or more (excused or unexcused) may receive a failing grade. If you think you will be out more than 15 days, please contact me to discuss the situation.

Teacher Contact Information and Conference Period

- My conference period during the day is Period 2, from 8:01 – 8:56 am.
- You may reach me by phone by dialing (661) 294-1188 ext. 812 or by email at: adavis@hartdistrict.org. Email is probably the fastest way to contact me.
- The class webpage is <http://staff.hartdistrict.org/adavis/index.html>. I frequently post grades, agendas, and handouts online, so please check and contact me if you have any concerns.
- **Parents**, please contact me by phone or email if you have any questions about your child's grade and/or performance in my class.

Please sign and return this page to indicate that you have read and understand the information provide in this syllabus. Additional copies are available upon request.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parents/Guardians Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: (Mom) _____ (Dad) _____

Email: _____

*****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*****

Please describe below if there is anything you would like me to know about your student.