

# **PHYS 1404 – Solar System Astronomy**

**Credit Hours: 4**

**Spring 2018**

**Farrington Building, Room 105**

**TR: 12:30 – 1:50 pm**

**Instructor:**  
**Office Location:**

**Dr. Hui Fang**  
**Farrington Building Room 204G and 305**

**Voice:**  
**Email:**

**(936) 294-4288**  
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**Office Hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 pm –3:45 pm or by appointment**

**Course Description:**

The study of the Solar System. Topics include the planets of the Solar System, the Sun, and the formation of Planetary Systems. Along the way, students will be introduced to tools astronomers use to determine such properties as temperatures, compositions, motions, masses, and evolution of astronomical objects. The lab of this course is designed to allow students to apply some of the astronomical techniques and concepts.

**Course Objective:**

After completing the course, a student should be able to recognize fundamental physics principles as applied to the field of astronomy, appreciate the changes in man's understanding of his place in the universe, know the basic structure of the Solar System. Students are expected to know the prevailing theories on the lifetimes and the time evolution of the Solar System. Students are expected to know the instrumentation commonly used in astronomy and the use of the literature available.

**Required Textbook:**

Understanding Our Universe, Palen/Kay/Smith/Blumenthal, W. W. Norton & Company, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and PHYS1404 Lab Manual

**Required Supplies:**

Pencil, pen, paper, a calculator, ruler, protractor, etc.

**Assignments:**

There are substantial reading and homework assignments.

**Course Outline:**

The course will cover chapters 1 ~ 9 in the text. This may be altered at the discretion of the instructor.

**Exams:**

Three major online examinations will be given during the semester.

Grading Plan:	Major exams will count 60% of your term average. Lab will count 25% and the rest 15% will come from the assignments.
Academic Dishonesty:	All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
Classroom Rules of Conduct:	Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.
Visitors in the Classroom:	Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.
American Disabilities Act:	SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.
Religious Holidays:	Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending

classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.