

Fall 2020

PHYS 320-001: Astronomy & Astrophysics I

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PHYS320001-Astronomy and Astrophysics I



Phys 320: Astronomy & Astrophysics I (Fall 2020)

This course will be delivered through the Synchronous Online mode (see [University Registrar's Fall 2020 Instructional Delivery Plan](https://www5.njit.edu/registrar/schedules/) [\(https://www5.njit.edu/registrar/schedules/\)](https://www5.njit.edu/registrar/schedules/)). We will use WebEx (see [this link for tutorials](https://ist.njit.edu/webex/) [\(https://ist.njit.edu/webex/\)](https://ist.njit.edu/webex/)) to deliver virtual lectures and the Canvas Learning Management System (see [this link for a student orientation](#)) to conduct the lecture slides, assignments, and lecture recordings. To access Canvas, log on at canvas.njit.edu [\(http://canvas.njit.edu/\)](http://canvas.njit.edu/) using your NJIT UCID and password.

Course Information

Time, Location: 11:00 am - 12:20 pm M, W; **Synchronous Online** via WebEx at <https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen> [_\(https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen\)](https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen)

Office Hour: Thursdays at 11 am–Noon at <https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen> [_\(https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen\)](https://njit.webex.com/meet/binchen) or by appointment.

Instructor: Prof. Bin Chen. Email: bin.chen@njit.edu [_\(mailto:bin.chen@njit.edu\)](mailto:bin.chen@njit.edu). Web: <https://web.njit.edu/~binchen> [_\(https://web.njit.edu/~binchen\)](https://web.njit.edu/~binchen)

Textbook: **Introduction to Modern Astrophysics (2nd Edition) by Carroll & Ostlie**. This is the same textbook used by Phys 321 (Astronomy & Astrophysics II). For this course, we will be covering **Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 in the textbook**. The remaining chapters will be covered in the companion course Phys 321 (Astronomy & Astrophysics II offered in Spring 2021).

Reading Assignments

The reading assignments accompany each lecture, and generally will have some short response worth 1 point, to encourage you to keep up with the reading. The reading assignments should show up in the list of modules, the list of assignments, and in your To-Do list. It is recommended to complete the readings before the corresponding lectures, but certainly by the time of the following lecture (the due date).

Homework Assignments

The homework assignments will be handed out each week. They are **typically** due each Wednesday but **pay attention to the specific due dates posted with each assignment**. They may require you to submit a text response or upload a file (preferably in pdf, but doc, docx, or pages also accepted), so check the assignment early and be prepared.

Online Exams

There will be **two in-class exams** during the semester, and **one final exam** during the exam week. All the exams will be carried out **synchronously online via Canvas and monitored through WebEx** (see information below). **Makeup exams** will only be allowed **under extraordinary circumstances** such as severe illness. Students must contact the professor **at least 24 hours** in advance to make alternative plans for taking the exam and must present proof that clearly states the reason AND date.

NJIT policy requires that all midterm and final exams must be proctored, regardless of delivery mode, in order to increase academic integrity. Note that this does not apply to essay or authentic based assessments. Effective beginning Fall semester 2019, students registered for a fully online course section (e.g., online or Hyflex mode) must be given the option to take their exam in a completely online format, with appropriate proctoring.

In this course you will be required to use the following proctoring method to ensure academic integrity for exams. Please see NJIT's response to questions about online proctoring [at this link \(https://www5.njit.edu/provost/response-questions-about-online-proctoring/\)](https://www5.njit.edu/provost/response-questions-about-online-proctoring/). See below for more information about how exams will be proctored in this course.

Your instructor will schedule a Webex exam session and share the meeting information with you ahead of time (note, **not the same as our default lecture Webex link**). The exam in Canvas will be password-protected. You can connect to the Webex session with either your phone or computer. You can find links to download the mobile app from the App Store or Google Play Store at the bottom of njit.webex.com (njit.webex.com).

When your instructor is ready to start the exam, they will provide the exam password in the meeting so all students can begin the Canvas quiz. Your instructor will then watch you, via the web camera, as you take the exam. Students are expected to remain connected to the Webex session until their exam is submitted. The session may also be recorded by your instructor.

In order to use Webex for proctored exams, you will need the following:

- High-speed internet connection
- Webcam (internal or external) and/or smartphone with a camera
- The process for connecting to Webex will be similar to the way you connect for a class. **Note the Webex links for exams will be different from the one used for lectures.**

Tips for ensuring a smooth experience while using Webex:

- Connect to your Webex session before class starts.
- Log into Canvas before connecting to Webex.

Grades

Your grade will be based on your homework+reading assignment scores (25%), two in-class common exams (30%), attendance and class participation (15%), and final exam (30%).

Here are the approximate weights to be used for calculating the final grade and the final grade scale:

30% for the two in-class exams	85% and more	A
30% for the final exam	80% - 84%	B+
25% for the total homework/assignment grade	70% - 79%	B
15% for total attendance/class participation	65% - 69%	C+
	55% - 64%	C
	50% - 54%	D
	49% and less	F

Grades are not negotiable. A score of 84.99999% is a B+, not an A

Statement on academic integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the **University Policy on Academic Integrity**.

(<https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at **dos@njit.edu**

(<mailto:%20dos@njit.edu>).

Other Information

Questions or problems regarding using Webex/Canvas for the online course can be submitted via web form by going to: **<https://servicedesk.njit.edu>** **(<https://servicedesk.njit.edu>)** and clicking on the "Report your issue online" link. You may also call the IST Service Desk with any questions at 973-596-2900.