History of Astronomy through Newton

AST 3043
Instructor info

- Dr. Haywood C. Smith, Jr. (UF since 1979)
- Office: BRT 324    Hours: MWF 4 or by appt
- Email: hsmith@astro.ufl.edu (preferred)
- Telephone: (352) 392-2052 ext. 236
Course info - general

• Text: Hoskin, *Cambridge Concise History of Astronomy*

• Supplemental text: *The Old Farmer’s Almanac 2011* (only the 2011 yellow one, no other year)

• Course syllabus only online at [www.astro.ufl.edu/~hsmith/AST3043.html](http://www.astro.ufl.edu/~hsmith/AST3043.html)

• GenEd credit for **either** P or H (not both) plus N

• Not Gordon Rule
Course info - general

- Trace development of astronomy from prehistoric beginnings through Newtonian period
- Main course – Babylonians, Greeks, Islamic astronomy, European astronomy
- Briefly look at Inca, Mayan, Egyptian, Chinese, Native American, Polynesian astronomies
- Threads: uses of astronomy, organization and growth of science
Course info - general

- Reading assignments announced in class (unless I forget), posted on Web page (link in syllabus)
- Test dates in syllabus unless need to change – announced in class, posted on Web
- Tests and final exam in regular classroom unless announced otherwise
- Homework project due date on Web, announced in class
Grade info

- Three “hour” tests, homework project, optional* final exam (percentages see Web page)
- “Hour” tests non-cumulative, multiple-choice (Parkinson – scrambled)
- Grade scale A=90+, A- = 87-89, B+ = 85 – 86, etc. (see Web)
- Grades posted on e-Learning in Sakai
- No attendance kept, but strongly encourage it

* Optional final if all three “hour” tests have been taken
Ground Rules

- Read syllabus carefully and know these – link on main page
- Check rules about absences if you miss an hour test or the final – no make-up on hour tests
- Please don’t have your laptop open during lecture (before lecture it’s OK)
- Arrange accommodations with me and the Disability Resource Center at the beginning of the term if you need them
Resources

- Web links, transparencies from lecture on main Web page; also see links at bottom
- Introductory astronomy textbooks on 2-hr reserve at Marston Science Library
- Link for flash cards on Web – study aid for tests
- Grade calculator – see what grades you need after tests
- Bibliography on main Web page
- Public Night on Fridays at Teaching Observatory (weather permitting)