PHYS1902 for Winter 2025

From our Star to the Cosmos

We, the people of the Faculty of Science at Carleton University, acknowledge that our campus is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people. Miigwetch for your hospitality and stewardship of this territory and the teachings that come from it. We are grateful for this land, the air that we breathe, and the water that sustains us all as well as for the animals, plants and other living beings: these enable us to research, teach, mentor, support, study, and learn. We recognize our responsibility to our natural environment and to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Course Instructor: Razieh Enjilela

How to address me: Razieh

Gender Pronouns: (she/her/hers)

Email: razieh.enjilela@Carleton.ca

Note: If you have or question or would like to talk with me, you can send an email, visit me during student hours (see below), or approach me after lecture.

Best Ways to be in Touch: via email, or during student office hours

Student Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Office Hours: Office hours will take place using the Zoom link which is built into Brightspace.

Class Location: PHYS 1902 is offered as an Asynchronous online Course.

Class Times: NA

Prerequisites: -

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for PHYS2203

Department/Unit: Physics

Course TAs: TBA

Topics Covered and Learning Outcomes

Welcome to your first (or second) course in astronomy! I hope that you have an enjoyable winter session studying at Carleton. This course is aimed at general interest students who have had minimal exposure to science or mathematics. As such, this course will rely mostly on descriptive explanations employing diagrams and pictures to help build a heuristic understanding of the cosmos. However, studying astronomy also requires a basic understanding of the laws of physics and mathematics.

PHYS 1902 is one of two introductory courses on astronomy offered by Carleton (the other being PHYS 1901: *Planetary Astronomy*). PHYS 1902 focuses on galaxies and stellar phenomena. By the end of this course, you will understand the motions of the sky, how telescopes work, the properties of stars and how they form and evolve, how galaxies form, and the methods astronomers and scientists use to learn about the Universe on its largest scales. I hope that you will gain a deeper appreciation of science and astronomy and have fun while learning!

PHYS 1902 is offered as an Asynchronous Course. This course is an online course where the instructor and students share information, ideas, and learning experiences in a virtual course space. Asynchronous courses do not have required live, scheduled meetings online. However, students are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. These courses require high-speed Internet access and a computer.

As with any university-level course, it is imperative that you view all lectures if you wish to succeed. The course assessment consists of 2 assignments, 2 class activities, a midterm exam, and a final exam. In this section, I explain how each assessment component factors into your final grade.

Topics to be Covered

Lecture	Date	Topics	Textbook Sections
1	January 7	Course Introduction Our Place in Space	1.1
2	January 9	Scientific Notation and Units in Astronomy The Scientific Method	Appendices 1, 2 1.2
3	January 14	The Celestial Sphere, Earth's Orbital Motion	1.3 – 1.4
4	January 16	Motion of the Moon, The Measurement of Distance, Ancient Astronomy	1.5 – 1.6
5	January 21	The Copernican Revolution, Planetary Motion	2.1 – 2.5
6	January 23	Laws of Motion	2.6 – 2.8
7	January 28	Light and Radiation	3.1 – 3.3
8	January 30	Radiation law Spectroscopy	3.4-3.5 4.1-4.2

9	February 4	Spectroscopy Telescopes	4.2-4.5 5.1-5.2
10	February 6	Telescopes	5.3-5.8
-	February 11	Course review, part 1	
11	February 13	The Sun	16.1-16.7
-	February 17-21	**Winter Break. Classes are suspended.**	-
12	February 25	The Stars	17.1-17.4
13	February 27	The Stars	17.5-17.8
14	March 4	The Interstellar Medium Star Formation	18.1-18.5 19.1-19.3
15	March 6	Star Formation Stellar Evolution of Low-Mass Stars	19.4-19.6 20.1-20.3
16	March 11	Stellar Evolution of High-Mass Stars Stellar Explosions	20.4 – 20.6 21.1 – 21.3
17	March 13	Stellar Explosions, Neutron Stars	21.4 – 21.5 22.1 – 22.4
18	March 18	Relativity and Black Holes	22.5 – 22.8
19	March 20	The Milky Way Galaxy	23.1 – 23.7
20	March 25	Galaxies	24.1 – 24.5
21	March 27	Galaxies and Dark Matter	25.1 – 25.5
22	April 1	Cosmology	26.1 – 26.7
23	April 3	The Early Universe	27.1 – 27.6
-	April 8	Course review, part 2	18-27
-	April **11-26**	Final examinations in winter term courses may be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.	-
-	May 16-28	Winter term deferred examinations will be held.	-

Lectures

There are three hours of lectures per week. Please see above for a detailed schedule of the delivery of the material, as well as for the content and textbook chapters covered every week. The textbook is an important tool to learn scientific material. The book identifies the learning objectives, explains the fundamental concepts and contains several review problems.

Note that the first 10 lectures of PHYS 1901 and PHYS 1902 cover the same material. This is so that any student taking either of these courses can learn the basic laws of physics and astronomy. For students who choose to take both courses, PHYS 1901 and PHYS 1902 cover different topics starting with lecture 11.

Assessments

Grade Breakdown

COMPONENT	GRADE VALUE	DATE
ASSIGNMENT 1	15 %	January 14-January 28
CLASS ACTIVITY 1	20 %	January 31-February 16
ASSIGNMENT 2	15 %	February 16- March 5
CLASS ACTIVITY 2	10 %	March 7-March 21
MIDTERM	15 %	February 28, 2025, 6-7:30 pm
FINAL EXAM	25 %	TBA
COURSE TOTAL	100 %	

In order to pass the course, your overall grade must be at least 50 %. In addition, **you MUST submit at least 3 course requirements (out of 2 assignments and 2 class activities) to pass the course.**

Please see the below detailed explanations:

Assignment Submission Policy

- You must submit your assignments electronically in Brightspace, by uploading a file in PDF or Microsoft Word format. **Do not email your assignment to me or the TA.**
- **Assignments must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the above due dates.**

Late and Missed Work Policies

Late Work

Students are expected to complete all assignments and class activities within the time frames and by the dates indicated in this outline. Exemption or deferral of assignments and activities is only permitted for a medical or personal emergency or due to religious observance (request must be received within the first two weeks of the course). I (course instructor) must be notified by e-mail prior to the due date or as soon as possible after the date, and the appropriate documentation must be submitted. **Late submissions will be graded with a 10% per day penalty up to a maximum of 50%.**

Missed Work

Short-term (5 days or less): If you missed work, please fill out the below form and contact me. **Please note that you can only use this form once during the semester.**

Academic Consideration for Coursework Form - Registrar's Office

Long-term (> 5 days): Kindly reach out to me regarding any long-term missed work. Please refer to the link provided below for additional information.

Long Term Academic Consideration Form - Registrar

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be held on **Friday, February 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m**. **Eastern Time**, and will take place online through Brightspace. The exam will be open-book and consist of multiple-choice questions. If you have a legitimate reason for missing the midterm exam, a deferred midterm exam may be scheduled for you. More details about the midterm exam will be announced at a later date.

Final Exam

The final examination will be held during the Fall exam period, April 11 – 26, 2025, and will take place online through Brightspace. The date and time of the exam are scheduled by the central University scheduling service and will be announced part of the way through the term. The final exam will be cumulative, open-book, and consist of multiple-choice questions. More details about the exam will be announced at a later date.

Deferred Exams

If you miss the Final Exam for a valid reason such as illness, you may apply for a Deferred Exam through the registrar's office. A Deferred Exam replaces only the Final Exam portion of your grade. Deferred Exams for winter 2025 are scheduled for May 16– 28, 2025.

Students with significant incomplete term work, such that a failing grade would be awarded regardless of the final exam score, will not be permitted to write a deferred exam.

Learning Material(s) and Other Course/Lab-Related Resources

Ancillary fees associated with this course, e.g., textbooks, course packs, lab manuals, field work, online resources or links required for the course along with their associated cost . Estimated costs can be acquired based on current bookstore offerings, Amazon, etc.

Learning Material	Options for Purchasing *(e.g. Bookstore, Used, etc.)*	Approximate Cost
Astronomy Today, 9th Edition by Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan, Publisher: Pearson	This eTextbook is simple to use on computers or iOS and Android mobile devices (even offline). You can take notes and highlights within the eText; they are added	$77.99 (12 months access)

	to your virtual notebook, where you can organize them for the way you study. To simplify the process, students can go directly to the Pearson learner store to purchase the etext. Here is the link: https://www.pearson.com/store/p/astronomy-today/P100002456903/9780134873787	

Second handbook, 8th or 9th edition are all acceptable. Please note that students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Academic Accommodations and Regulations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website Course Outline - Current Students : Current Students).

Statement on Chat GPT/Generative AI usage (See the *Sample Syllabus Statements for AI use in Courses* document for examples)

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the values of academic integrity, which include fairness, honesty, trust, and responsibility. Examples of actions that that compromise these values include but are not limited to plagiarism, accessing unauthorized sites for assignments or tests, unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams, and using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT when your assessment instructions say it is not permitted.

Misconduct in scholarly activity will not be tolerated and will result in consequences as outlined in Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy. A list of standard sanctions in the Faculty of Science can be found here.

Additional details about this process can be found on the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students are expected to act responsibly and engage respectfully with other students and members of the Carleton and the broader community. See the 7 Rights and Responsibilities Policy for details regarding the expectations of non-academic behaviour of students. Those who participate with another student in the commission of an infraction of this Policy will also be held liable for their actions.

Student Concerns

If a concern arises regarding this course, **your first point of contact is me**: Email or drop in during student hours and I will do my best to address your concern. If I am unable to address your concern, the next points of contact are (in this order):

Note: You can also bring your concerns to Ombuds services.

Important Dates

WINTER 2025

January 3	University reopens.
January 6	Winter term classes begin.
January 17	Last day for registration and course changes in in full winter and late winter courses.
January 24-Feb 2	Fall term deferred examinations will be written.
January 31	Last day for withdrawal from winter term and winter portion of fall/winter courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
February 17	Statutory Holiday. University closed.
February 17-21	Winter Break, no classes.
March 1	Last day for receipt of applications to Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Bachelor of Humanities, Bachelor of Industrial Design, Bachelor of Information Technology (Interactive Multimedia and Design), Bachelor of Journalism, Bachelor of Journalism and Humanities, and the Bachelor of Music degree programs for the fall/winter session. Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for the summer term.

	Last day for receipt of applications for admission from candidates who wish to be guaranteed consideration for financial assistance (including Carleton fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships) administered by Carleton University. Candidates whose applications are received after the March 1 deadline may be considered for the award of a fellowship, scholarship or teaching assistantship (Graduate students only).
March 15	Last day to request formal exam accommodations for April examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 2	Last day for summative tests or examinations - or for formative and/or practical tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade - before the official examination period (see Examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 1	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for the fall/winter session from candidates whose documents originate outside Canada or the United States, except for applications due February 1 or March 1.
April 8	Winter term ends.
	Last day of fall/winter and winter term classes.
	Last day for take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the Examinations regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter term courses.
	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for fall/winter and winter term courses.
April 9-10	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 26	All take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the Examinations regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

May 1	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate internal degree transfers to allow for registration for the summer session.
May 16-28	Fall/Winter and winter term deferred final examinations will be held.