

PHYS1901 for Summer 2026

Planetary Astronomy

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: Please see D2L

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

Class Location: PHYS 1901 is offered as an Asynchronous online Course.

Class Times: NA

Prerequisites: -

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for PHYS2203

Department/Unit: Physics

Course TAs: TBA

Note: Faculty of Science B.Sc. students may only take this course as a free elective; Computer Science (BCS) students may only take it as a breadth elective.

Learning Material(s)

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. <i>Bookstore, Used, etc.</i>)	Approximate Cost
<i>Astronomy Today</i> , 9th Edition by Eric Chaisson and Steve McMillan, Publisher: Pearson	purchase the e-text. Here is the link: https://www.pearson.com/store/p/astronomy-today/P100002456903/9780134873787	\$75.00 (6 months online access)

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

Topics Covered and Learning Outcomes

Welcome to your astronomy course! This course is designed for general interest students with little background in science or math, focusing mainly on descriptive explanations supported by diagrams and visuals, along with some basic physics and mathematics.

PHYS 1901 is one of two introductory astronomy courses at Carleton (alongside PHYS 1902) and focuses on the solar system and planetary phenomena. By the end, you will understand sky motions, how telescopes work, planetary characteristics, the formation of the solar system, and how scientists study our cosmic neighbourhood. The goal is to build appreciation for science while enjoying the learning process.

This is an **asynchronous online course, meaning there are no scheduled live sessions**. Students are expected to keep up with deadlines and course materials using a computer and reliable internet.

To succeed, it is important to watch all lectures. Assessment includes one assignment, two class activities, a midterm exam, and a final exam, all contributing to your final grade.

Topics to be Covered

Date	Lecture	Topics	Textbook Sections
May 6	1	Course Introduction Our Place in Space	1.1
	2	Scientific Notation, Astronomical Measurement The Scientific Method	1.1 Appendices 1, 2, 1.2
May 11	3	The Celestial Sphere, Earth's Orbital Motion	1.2 – 1.4
	4	Motion of the Moon, The Measurement of Distance	1.4 – 1.5
May 13	5	The Copernican Revolution, Planetary Motion	1.6 2.1 – 2.4
	6	Laws of Motion Newtonian Mechanics	2.5 – 2.7
May 18	7	Light and Radiation Electromagnetic Spectrum	2.8 3.1 – 3.2
	8	Radiation Laws Spectroscopy	3.3 – 3.5 4.1
May 20	9	Spectroscopy Telescopes	4.2 – 4.5
	10	Telescopes *Course Review, Part 1	5.1 – 5.4 1-5

May 25	11	The Solar System	6.1 – 6.2
	12	The Solar System and its Formation	6.3 – 6.7
May 27	13	The Earth	7.1 – 7.5
	14	The Moon	7.6, 8.1 – 8.9
June 1	15	Mercury Venus	8.1 – 8.9 9.1 – 9.4
	16	Venus Mars	9.5 – 9.6 10.1 – 10.5
June 3	17	Mars Jupiter	10.6 – 10.8 11.1 – 11.2
	18	Jupiter and its Moons	11.3 – 11.6
June 8	19	Saturn	12.1 – 12.5
	20	Uranus and Neptune	13.1 – 13.6
June 10	21	Solar System Debris	14.1 – 14.4
	22	Exoplanets	15.1 – 15.5
June 15	23	The Sun	16.1 – 16.7
	-	*Course Review, Part 2	7-16
June 18	-	Last day of Early Summer term classes	-
June 21– 27	-	Final examinations in Early Summer term courses may be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.	-
July 17– 19	-	Early Summer 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	20 %	May 9 - May 23
CLASS ACTIVITY 1	20 %	May 24 - June 8
CLASS ACTIVITY 2	15 %	June 9 - June 16
MIDTERM	20 %	May 25, 2026, 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 2 course requirements (out of 1 assignment and 2 class activities) to pass the course.** Please note that if you decide not to submit one of the requirements, its grade will not be distributed on the other assignments. You will lose the mark for the missed assignment.

Please see the detailed explanations below:

Assignment Submission Policy

- You must submit your assignments electronically in Brightspace by uploading a 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 form below 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 **Monday, May 25, 2026 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 summer exam period, June 21 – 27, 2026, 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 summer 2026 are scheduled for July 17– 19, 2026.

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.

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 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](#).

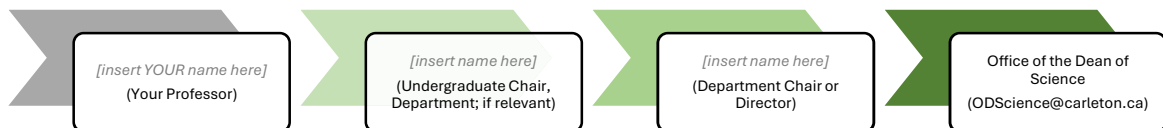
Student Rights & Responsibilities

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

SUMMER 2026

May 6	Summer term classes begin.
May 12	Last day for registration and course changes in early summer courses.
May 15-27	Winter term deferred examinations will be written.
May 18	Statutory Holiday. University closed.
May 20	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full summer courses. Last day to withdraw from early summer courses with a full fee adjustment.
June 1	Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses. Last day to request formal exam accommodations for June 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.
June 10	Last day for summative tests or examinations - or for formative and/or practical tests or examinations totalling 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).
June 18	Last day of early summer term classes. 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.
June 19-20	No classes or examinations take place.
June 21-27	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
July 1	Statutory holiday. University Closed.
June 2	Late summer classes begin and full summer classes resume.