



Astronomy Elective

Course Guidelines

2021-2022

Mr. Wetmore

Welcome

Astronomy is a natural science that studies celestial objects and phenomena. It uses mathematics, physics, and chemistry in order to explain their origin and evolution. Objects of interest include planets, moons, stars, nebulae, galaxies, and comets. This elective course will serve as a basic introduction to astronomy to provide you with background and foundational knowledge. All work will be done in our classroom (no homework). Tests will be 'open notes', so it is important that you attend class regularly and participate by taking notes, ask questions, engage in classroom discussions.

Classroom Guidelines

OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND DISTRACTION FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Any student whose behavior does not support our goal will be asked to correct their behavior. If inappropriate behavior(s) continue, a parent/guardian will be informed and the student will be referred to the principle.

Very simply:

- Safety - Do not put yourself or someone else in an unsafe situation.
- Courteous - Toward everyone (Do NOT become a distraction in class)

Some specifics:

- The school rules outlined in the student handbook will be enforced.
- Use of provided note-taking worksheet is mandatory (taking notes is not an optional activity)
- Use of phones, earbuds, headphones, etc... is NOT permitted.
 - PHONES/EARBUDS must be stored out of view (they've become distractions)
- Do not touch other students or their materials.
- Responsibly and properly use classroom materials and laboratory equipment.
- No disrespectful language toward others - additionally, no 'attention-seeking' noises or language that is off topic.
- Politely follow the instructions/requests of any adult in the classroom to include substitute teachers and teacher aides.

Supplies

- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch three ring binder solely for this class (it will remain in the classroom)
- Scientific Calculator (example: Texas Instruments TI-30XA ~\$12 @ Wal-Mart)

Daily Routine

Arrive on time and be prepared for class. Please be seated as attendance is taken. Our time together will be very busy, so **come to class ready to work**. During our lessons, topic related discussions are welcome, but **only one person should be talking at a time**.

Class will normally begin with a 'bellringer' question/activity. You will also be provided with an in-class worksheet to be used for note-taking. Each class will include a 'focus activity' as the primary method of providing you the information that that day's lesson. These 'focus activities' will be various learning activities; for example, reading short articles, watching videos, performing Internet lessons, and/or hands-on labs.

Class will conclude each day with a short writing activity where you'll be asked to reflect on the lesson of that day and summarize your learning. This may also include answering a few questions.

Use of the in-class note-taking worksheet and writing activities are required (not optional).

Do NOT bring food or drinks into the classroom (this includes gum and lollipops). Only one student will be permitted to use the bathroom at a time.

At the end of the period, I - not the bell - will dismiss you.

Grading

According to Unatego Central School policy, tests make up 90 percent of your grade and homework makes up the remaining 10 percent.

Tests and **quizzes** will be recorded as test scores (90 percent of your grade).

Your written answers to questions assigned (and answered) in class will be recorded as homework scores.

Extra Credit: There will be **NO extra credit** opportunities.

Retest Policy: Since all tests will be 'open notes', there will be **NO retests**.

Absences

If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get any notes and/or assignments that you missed by coming to my room during **tutorial periods** to make up the notes you missed.

Conclusion:

You will have to take responsibility for your own learning. Many of you will soon be accepting the responsibility of driving a vehicle (or already have your drivers licence). If you are old enough for that responsibility, you certainly are old enough to behave appropriately in class, complete all assignments on-time and do the things necessary to be successful in this course.

Agreement

I have read, understood, and agree to follow the guidelines listed above to include use of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times to avoid disruptions and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone.

Student Signature

Print: _____ Sign: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print: _____ Sign: _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please provide a preferred e-mail address that I can use to communicate with you about events in our classroom. Many parents of students I've had many parents previously state that they enjoy keeping informed about things like dates for upcoming tests and quizzes (to include a list of topics the students should be studying). Your e-mail address will not be visible to other recipients of our group e-mails and I will only use e-mail for school related communications. If you have any questions or concerns about sharing your e-mail address with me, please leave a message with a good phone number to reach you at 988-5000 (ext. 5479) and I'd be glad to talk about them with you at your convenience.

➔ Parent/Guardian E-Mail address: _____