**SYLLABUS**  
*Physics 103: Astronomy*  
*Dr. Richard West*  
*Fall 2015*

I. **TIME/PLACE**  
Delivered and completed entirely on SIU Online (online.siu.edu) during the Fall 2015 semester. Please see the Syllabus Attachment - Fall 2015 for important information and dates.

II. **REQUIRED RESOURCES**


Options:
1) MasteringAstronomy CODE ONLY (includes eText) - ISBN 9780321870285

2) Package, text + Modified MasteringAstronomy - ISBN 9780321973474

**INTERNET CONNECTION** and a computer with minimum requirements below:  
http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/educators/mm-support/system-requirements/

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The student will be able to describe the properties of light and how it is generated, describe and apply Newton's Laws, describe the source of energy for stars, the solar system and its major bodies, the life cycle of a star, and the properties of galaxies.

IV. **COURSE STRUCTURE**

The entire course is delivered through SIU Online. The course is divided into learning modules. These modules come with reading assignments. Notes will normally be provided in PDF format. However, certain concepts will require explanation, using occasional audio and video. Materials will be posted online throughout the semester.

Labs - virtual observations - contain interactive content. These observations will be delivered using *My Lab and Mastering* through our SIU Online (D2L) page for the course. These simulations reinforce the concepts being learned. Questions are asked covering the observation and results. There will be a total of fourteen virtual observations. We will drop the lowest observation grade. No late observations will be accepted.

Homework assignments will be assigned each module. These assignments will be delivered using *My Lab and Mastering* through our SIU Online (D2L) page for the course. Seven homework assignments will be given and the six best will be counted towards the final grade. No late homework will be accepted.
There are quizzes covering each module. These quizzes will be taken at the end of each learning module. The quizzes will be written in a manner that resembles the exams. There are seven quizzes that will be administered on SIU Online and the six best will be counted towards the final grade. Each quiz will consist of 1 attempt and will only be open for a limited time. Quiz 1, however, will allow for 2 attempts with only the highest grade taken, in an effort to allow you some extra practice. Please do not start the quiz unless you are completely ready. They are timed. There are no late or make-up quizzes.

The term paper must be your own creation. The topic is Black Holes. Specific guidelines will be posted on your course website. In general, the paper should be submitted in Word format, about 3 pages, double spaced, with citations.

The midterm exam must be proctored. The midterm exam covers modules 1-4.

The final exam is comprehensive (modules 1-7) and must be proctored.

V. GRADES

(a) Grade Breakdown: Labs: 20%  
Homework: 12.5%  
Quizzes: 12.5%  
Term Paper: 10%  
Midterm exam: 20%  
Final exam: 25%

(b) Grade Scale:  
A: 85-100%  
B: 75-84%  
C: 65-74%  
D: 50-64%  
F: 0-49%

VI. THE COURSE WEBSITE – https://online.siu.edu/

You must go to the above website, sign in, and follow the link to PHYS 103. On the site you can get the following:
(1) Notes  
(2) Important announcements and due dates  
(3) Homeworks  
(4) The virtual observations  
(5) Access to quizzes and exams  
(6) Grades!

VII. CONTACT

Dr. Richard West  
Email: rdwest@siu.edu
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW - PHYS 103 - Online
See website (https://online.siu.edu/) for all due dates

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