Course coordinator: Professor Bradley Peterson
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Webpage URL: http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~peterson/Ast2895/
Classroom: 3094 Smith Laboratory
Class Hours: T, 4:10 – 5:05 p.m.

Course Objectives and Philosophy:
Astron 2895 is a two-semester seminar that is intended to introduce prospective astronomy and astrophysics majors to the undergraduate astronomy program at Ohio State. There will be introductory lectures on practical aspects of the major program, including course of study, careers in astronomy and astrophysics, observational facilities available to Ohio State faculty and students, the Center for Cosmology and Astro-Particle Physics (CCAPP) connection with the Department of Physics, and opportunities for engagement of undergraduate students (including a discussion of REU opportunities, the OSU Astronomy Summer Undergraduate Research Program, the Ohio State University Astronomical Society, and outreach opportunities available at Ohio State). Each of the remaining sessions will feature an Ohio State faculty member, who will describe his or her research program at a level suitable for first-year undergraduates.

Effective Autumn Semester 2012, all astronomy majors must complete one semester of Astron 2895 (or one quarter of Astron 295).

Course Prerequisites:
None.

Textbook:
None required.

Grades and Attendance:
This course will be graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory only. Grades will be based on attendance and short (one-page or less) essays on the topics discussed. No more than two unexcused absences will be permitted for a passing grade. Essays will be due no later than two weeks following the presentation, except the essays for the presentations on 27 November and 4 December are due no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 7 December. Essays must be submitted electronically and must be in either plain text format or in PDF format (.doc, .docx, .tex, and .ps can all be converted easily to PDF). Essays should be submitted to Dr. Peterson via email at the address above.

Excused absences will be granted if a class conflicts with an approved University function (e.g., if you are a member of a varsity athletic team or TBDBITL and are
required to leave town), provided that you obtain permission from the course coordinator at least a week in advance.

**Roof Nights:**
“Roof nights” constitute what might be called a casual laboratory for the 1000-level introductory astronomy courses. Astronomy 2895 students are cordially invited to attend. The Roof Night schedule can be found through a link on the Astronomy Department website.

**Academic Misconduct:**
All Ohio State instructors are required to report suspected cases of academic misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. See the University’s Code of Student Conduct for details.

**Students with Disabilities:**
Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the course coordinator to discuss specific needs. We will work with the Office for Disability Services (ODS) to verify the need for accommodation and develop appropriate strategies. Students with disabilities who have not previously contacted ODS should do so in advance by visiting the ODS website and requesting an appointment. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).