Astronomy

Faculty Name: Paul Ramsey
Contact: pramsey@ames-slc.org
Room Number: 223

Course Description
Astronomy helps to provide us a context for our existence as physical beings living in a physical world. This is a survey course in which the students learn principles of Astronomy. We will study the universe that surrounds us. Students will become familiar with our solar system, prominent stars, stellar evolution, some constellations, nebulae, galaxies, and cosmology. This will be accomplished through reading, class discussion, viewing media, and lab experiences.

Online Instruction: Policies and procedures for this class will also include the official syllabus released by the AMES administration.

ZOOM: This course will be held online until further notice. Live, online classes will be held on the ZOOM platform and the button to join the class can be found below. We will also have non-synchronous assignments and activities. The schedule for these classes are listed in the table below. Please have any assigned work or reading done before the class as this material will often play a central role in our live sessions.

CANVAS: https://ames.instructure.com - This site will be used for lessons as well as for accessing and submitting assignments. Please use Aspire to check official course grades - https://ames.usoe-dcs.org

Google Account/Google Drive: Several assignments will be given through a modifiable Google Doc, so you can add responses and submit through CANVAS.

Attendance, Participation and Assignment Completion: It is important for students to come to class on time, ready to learn and engage in our class activities. Students are expected to actively participate in class, complete all assignments thoroughly, and adhere to a standard of high quality work. Zoom synchronous (live) sessions are REQUIRED. You can only earn full credit by arriving on-time and attending the full session. Time will be provided during every class period for students to perform asynchronous assignments. It is strongly encouraged that students to utilize the time provided during every class period as this will help them maintain a regular schedule and can help them to not fall behind.

School-wide policies: Additional items which you should know about how online learning will be done in my class are discussed later, in a separate section of this document, under the title “Guidelines and Expectations for Online Learning”. What you’ll see there should be very similar to what other AMES teachers will tell you, but it may not be exactly the same. Therefore, please read it carefully.
Daily Assignments:
Daily assignments will include reading, working on assignments, labs, lectures, assessments, discussions of current events in science, and research.

Homework:
We will try to accomplish as much as possible in class. The student is responsible for completion of unfinished work as homework. It is important that this homework be finished on the day that it is due as this will facilitate class discussion and student understanding of the material. Assignments and due dates will be posted on the calendar of the class web page on Canvas.

Late Assignments: Part of college readiness is learning to manage time and meet deadlines. As a general rule, in-class assignments are due at the beginning of the next class period, unless otherwise instructed. Due dates are announced regularly, and posted clearly in class and on Aspire and/or CANVAS. Late assignments will be accepted up to 1 week past the due date.

Late work will be accepted if the student has a valid and written excuse or accommodation for not being able to complete the work on time. Written excuses will be accepted either on or before the due date of the assignment or on the first day that the student returns to class. Email excuses from the parent or guardian are acceptable and encouraged. Due dates are announced regularly and students are responsible for recording due dates in their planners.

Make-up Work:
Make-up privileges will be given for validated and excused absences as well as accommodations. Students need to make arrangements with me on the first day they return to class from their absence.
Expectations & Consequences

Expectations:

**Respect** - Be respectful of other people’s property, opinions, and feelings, as well as your own.

**On Time and Prepared** - Come to class on time and have all materials you will need for the day (pen/pencil, notebook or binder, paper).

**Honesty** - Being a good citizen in my class means knowing that I can trust you. Be honest when answering questions and when submitting your assignments, assessments, projects etc.

**Academic Intent** - It is assumed that every student in the class desires to learn the content of the curriculum. Students, therefore, will be expected to make an honest effort to learn and to avoid behaviors which might inhibit their own ability or the ability of their classmates to learn.

Consequences:

Disrespect will NOT be tolerated. Your parents will be called and a conference will be set up to discuss the problem. If it becomes continuous, you will be referred to the principal for further intervention.

If you are late to class, excused or not, you may not be able to earn the points associated with attendance on that day.

If you are caught cheating, you will receive an immediate zero on the assignment or test in question. Your parents and the AMES Administration will be contacted as soon as possible and may not have the opportunity to make up the work at my discretion.

Grading:

The grade for this class will be based on the following formula:

- 40% Homework, in-class assignments, quizzes, and lab reports
- 20% Online attendance and participation quizzes
- 40% Tests and special projects

Students will be given credit for work completed, and a score of zero for work not completed. The student’s score will be computed as a percentage of the work assigned and scores earned.

Students will be expected to adhere to the AMES Internet Use Agreement and to be careful and appropriate in the use of school resources. Students must report all damage of resources, equipment malfunctions and discovery of inappropriate use immediately.

Students who enjoy a challenge and are interested in Astronomy tend to really enjoy this class. I look forward to working productively with you.
Guidelines & Expectations for Online Learning (from AMES Administration)

The Academy for Math, Engineering & Science expects each student to attend online classes using the Zoom platform following their daily schedule. The teacher Zoom link is within the teachers Canvas account. To start school, go into your student/Canvas account for the class. For each class thereafter this is where you would find the ZOOM link for “live” instruction. If you don’t have Zoom, you can download it free from zoom.us/download. It is required that you have a webcam and microphone to fully participate in the class. If this is currently not possible, AMES will lend you a device that will enable you to participate.

Classes will be recorded and made available on Canvas, so if you need to miss a lecture you can always watch it later. Class recordings will not be made available to the general public and will be deleted at the end of the semester, but be aware that a recording will exist for a few months. Because of this, please refrain from giving out any sensitive personal information during class time, such as grade information, ID numbers, housing details, etc. You will also need to access Canvas regularly to receive class announcements, access the videos, and obtain homework. You will also submit your homework and exams online via Canvas.

If you have a tablet or a similar computerized writing surface, the simplest method is usually to download the exam or homework pdf, write directly on that, and then re-upload it to Canvas. Otherwise, if you have a printer you can print out the exam, write on that, and then scan and upload the write-up. If you do not have a printer, you can simply write your solutions on a blank piece of paper, clearly indicating which problem you are solving. If you do not have a scanner, many apps convert your smartphone into a scanner.

Teachers will be teaching each class for approximately 45 minutes live online or synchronous. The rest of the class period will be used for in class homework, discussion or interaction with the teacher. Each student is expected to attend the 45 minutes of synchronous class time and asynchronous class time is highly encouraged. This will look like a regular school day. Students will attend as if it is a school day from any other year except students will be using the digital platform. They will attend school following their schedule. All students and families that need a computer or a hotspot will be supplied with what they need.
**Grading of Attendance and Participation:**

Online participation points will be based on the expectation of 90 minutes per week per class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Points per session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance (school-wide)</strong></td>
<td>3 points for full session, live attendance</td>
<td>3 points possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• -1 if tardy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• -1 if exits meeting before dismissal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Excused absences can make-up these points by viewing video and completing assigned tasks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Please contact teacher for specific instructions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>2 points possible for the daily participation quiz</td>
<td>2 points possible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schedule:**

AMES will be following an A/B day schedule. Friday students will not have “live” online classes but it will count as a regular day in the schedule. Therefore, if Thursday was an “A” day, Friday would be a “B” day and Monday would again be an “A” day. Students will be given 10 minutes from the assigned starting time for the class to log online. Synchronous teaching/learning will begin ten minutes from the start of class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMES Bell Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEG</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY-THURSDAY BELL SCHEDULE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A OR 2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A OR 3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ND LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A OR 4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A OR 5B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills to Help You in Class

1) **Go to Class.** The best way to make sure you are successful in any class is to attend each and every day. There is a difference between just passing a class and learning the material for the class. The discussions, examples, and interactions you gain from participating in class each day are invaluable to your ability to master the content required to be successful.

2) **Don’t Give Up.** Your class may be the first class that doesn’t just come easy to you. Many students can become frustrated with not having immediate success and give up. It is a difficult subject to master, but if you work hard and don’t give up, you can learn it. It may be the first class you receive a lower grade than an A, but you should be proud of whatever grade you earn in the class.

3) **Don’t Procrastinate.** Attend your online class. Use the other class time to complete your assignments. It is not something you can put off and have success with. Mastering the content requires you to build concepts on top of other concepts from the course. If you fall behind and don’t understand a concept, all of the more advanced concepts that build off that one will be very difficult to understand.

4) **Read the Text.** Many students have made it through their academic career up to this point without having to actually read the textbook to be successful. Learning to use a textbook is a skill that will help you for the rest of your academic career, especially at the college level where the pace of learning is much faster than in high school.

5) **Do Your Own Work.** Turning in assignments with the correct answers on them because they have been copied off of someone else only hurts you in the long-run. Most college courses do not offer any points for problems/homework, so homework problems are there to help you learn how to do the material on your own prior to having to show your mastery of it on the test.

6) **Practice, Practice, Practice.** The only way to master anything is to practice it repeatedly. Doesn’t matter if it is riding a bicycle, playing video games, or any other thing in your life. You will be good at what you spend the most time practicing. The only way to get good at anything is to practice it repeatedly.

7) **Get Help.** When trying to practice, you may be stuck and not be able to remember a concept or quite know how to do a problem. Get help from a friend who may know the concept better than you know or come in and ask for help from the teacher. Not everyone is going to understand each topic the first time or way it was explained to him or her. It may require a different explanation for example to click.

8) **Have Fun.** Learning new things is fun. Especially learning difficult things. Even though it is going to be a lot of work to master the content for the class, we will try ways to make it fun with labs, discussions, and projects, but at the end of the day, your attitude about school will determine how much fun you have or do not have throughout the year.
**Learning space:**

Students will be expected to be online each day and attend each day’s classes both synchronous and asynchronously. We want you to create a learning space where you will be each day. If you are using your electronic device’s camera to attend the class, you should be dressed for school. You do not have to use a camera to attend class if you choose not to. Your learning place should be free of distractions. If you are using your camera, please include a background that allows for no distractions and a clear view of you as a student. You are attending school so headphones and background music should not be playing.

**Computer and Internet Usage**

Students will be expected to adhere to the AMES Internet Use Agreement and to be careful and appropriate in the use of school resources. Students must report all damage of resources, equipment malfunctions and discovery of inappropriate use immediately.
Astronomy

It is a required assignment for you and your parent or guardian to send me some sort of confirmation that both of you have read this syllabus/disclosure statement. There are two ways you could do this.

(1) You could send me an email confirming that you’ve read it, and your parent/guardian could send me an email confirming that they’ve read it. I’ll need two separate email messages if you do this… one from your email account and the other from your parent/guardian’s email account.

(2) You and your parent/guardian could sign below to indicate that you have read the disclosure/syllabus document and then scan or photograph this page and submit it to me via Canvas.

Either way, please keep the rest of the document for your future reference.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Student Name: (Print) ______________________________________

Student Signature:  _____________________________________   Date:  ___________

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print) ______________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature:  _______________________________  Date:  ___________

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: ___________________________________

Parent/Guardian E-Mail Address:  ___________________________________________