

## **WELCOME TO ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY 001 HYBRID (Section 8528) - FALL 2014**

Welcome to online astronomy 001. Astronomy 001 is a conceptual survey of the basic principles and science of astronomy. Topics include the history of astronomy, the solar system, the Sun, galaxies, cosmology, and life in the universe. This introductory course is designed for the non-technical student.

Please read this entire letter and syllabus prior to purchasing texts and/or registering for the online systems. If you plan to purchase a book early (any used or rented text) and are unsure if your text with mastering astronomy is appropriate for the course, contact me first (bellea@wlac.edu).

This class is primarily taken online, however there are TWO mandatory on-campus meetings: orientation and the final exam. All lecture, homework, and exams (except the final exam) will be given online through two systems:

### **1. ETUDES**

- Once you register for the course you are automatically enrolled in the course website, ETUDES, which can be found here:

<http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp>

- This is the main area in which to download your lectures as well as receive I announcements I may post. I will also make announced appearances in the chat room for live office hours as well as check the discussion boards to help out. Please take time to go through the site tutorial to learn about all the features available to you. There will be discussion boards on which you may post questions that your fellow classmates may help you with, a chat room that you can use with your classmates or me, private message options, and resource links (in which I may put supplemental or links to interesting sites).
- Instructions for entering your username and password can be found on the same page.
- Let me know if you have trouble logging in as this is a short course and there is much to cover quickly. The course website will be where you will download lecture material, receive announcements,

communicate with me, and your fellow classmates, and ask questions.

- Once in, please familiarize yourself with your website. Try out the tabs, navigate the page, go to the discussion boards and introduce yourselves, etc...

**• You need to introduce yourself ETUDES by the second day of class, Monday Oct. 6, or you will be dropped as a no-show!**

- You should plan on checking the class website at least 2 times per day to keep up with any new announcements or help each other.

## 2. Mastering Astronomy

- The other part of the course is the online homework management system. You can register at [www.masteringastronomy.com](http://www.masteringastronomy.com)
- If you are registering for the first time, click the 'STUDENTS' tab on the home page.
- If you have an access code (found bundled in select NEW books only) indicate that you have a code and set up your account.
  - Once your account is set up, log into mastering astronomy and look for your course.
- If you do not have an access code and need to purchase one online, choose that option.
  - You are then directed to the page in which you choose your book. Choose the correct book for the course! (Even if you are using a different book from which to study)
  - You may then go on to create your account.
- Follow the prompts to register and once in, find the course ID:

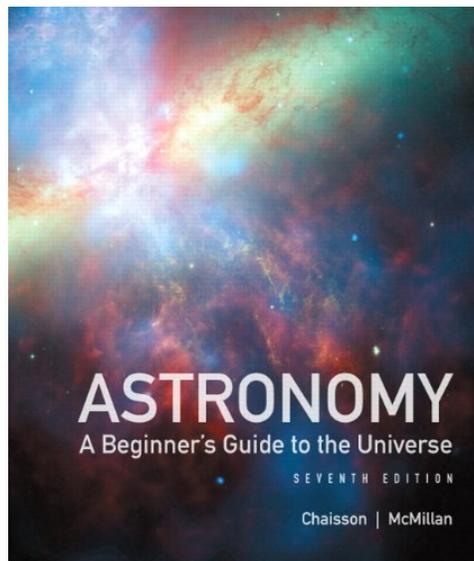
**• Course ID: will be given during orientation (will open the evening before the start of term)**

- This is what you will use to find your class.
- For support with mastering astronomy, go to the following link and choose your method of support (I recommend the live chat).
- <http://www.masteringastronomy.com/site/support/faq-students.html>

**• You need to complete the introduction to mastering astronomy assignment by the fourth day of class, Wednesday Oct. 9, or you will be dropped due to lack of activity. Since this is a late**

**start class, and you can purchase your book and code early, there will be no extensions for this deadline.**

- It is **imperative** that you choose the correct book during the registration process. We will be using Astronomy: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by Chaisson and McMillan, ISBN: **0321814916**



**Note:** While you may be able to find a used text, or a text of a different edition for less, **the Mastering Astronomy code portion is required for all homework, and exams.** You may buy this separately @ (<http://www.masteringastronomy.com>) for about \$60 so take that into account when purchasing your text. The code comes bundled free with all new books (including those purchased online as long as they say they include Mastering Astronomy). They DO NOT come with used or rental books. Therefore, buy a used copy or rent at your own risk.

**Since this is a short-term class, if you cannot afford to get your book near the end of the first week, you will likely be too far behind to catch up.** Order your NEW book or used with code from mastering astronomy (instantaneous access) with RUSH delivery. If you are unsure, email me first.

Homework and test dates will be listed on your mastering astronomy course home page under assignments. There will be multiple homework assignments per week.

As almost everything in the class is online, I suggest you work through this checklist to see if online is right for you:

- Do you have access to a computer with cable or high-speed internet access? (Note: You may use campus computers for free during normal business hours)
- Are you able to work (for the most part) independent of the instructor? You will be required to read the book and lecture notes and do assignments based on the readings. The instructor will be available online or on campus to help with specific questions and help with homework.
- Are you computer literate? You must know how to send and receive e-mail, including attachments, follow online instructions, navigate web pages, etc...
- Are you comfortable enough with reading and English to work through your text?
- Are you able to read PowerPoint files (either through Microsoft Office or Open Office)? Do you have Flash and Adobe Reader installed? (If not you need to install these three programs to be able to work through the class)

If you answered 'No' to any of these questions (except the last which is a requirement), you may want to consider an on-campus version of the class.

The textbook is bundled at the college bookstore with [mastering astronomy](#) bundled for free. If you choose to buy the text used, you must purchase mastering astronomy (required) separately on the website (~\$60). All homework will be done through mastering astronomy. You need the text to answer study guide questions. Though many astronomy books are similar, accepted answers for multiple choice and short answer/essays will be text and lecture specific.

**The on-campus schedule is as follows (these two meetings are MANDATORY):**

On-campus orientation: Saturday 08/04/14, 9:35 am to 11:40 am, Room: MSA 005

On-campus Final Exam: Saturday 12/20/2014, 9:35 am to 11:40am, Room: MSA 005

IN ORDER TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM, YOU MUST BRING A PICTURE ID AND YOUR STUDENT ID (You have 6 weeks in which to obtain a WLAC student ID). You cannot take the final exam without both forms of ID.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions as you proceed through the class. Please put your name and 'Ast001 Hybrid F14' in the subject line.

[Campus Map](#)

Professor

Elizabeth Bell

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Office Location MSB 224

I may answer more quickly if you use the private message feature in ETUDES to contact me.