



# Instructor Policies

SCI/151  
Astronomy

Campus/Learning Center: Fort Collins Learning Center

## ***Facilitator Information***

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### **John Ensworth**

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720-378-2771 (MST)

### **Facilitator Availability**

I am available from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Mountain Time on most days, but I attempt to reserve Sunday for my family. On Saturdays, I tend to be online in the morning only. If these times are not convenient for you, please let me know. I will be happy to accommodate your schedule, if possible. I provide you with these times to make it easier to communicate with me, and not to limit our contact.

I want you to know that, should you need to contact me outside these time frames (emergencies), you should not hesitate to do so.

## ***Late Assignments***

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Late assignments receive a 10% deduction for each day they are late if assignments are not posted by 11:59 p.m. M.S.T. on the day they are due. Assignments more than 4 days late will not be accepted. Technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission. In the event of a University of Phoenix server outage, students should submit assignments to the instructor and when systems are restored, submit those assignments according to syllabus instructions. Unless an Incomplete grade has been granted, learner assignments submitted after the last day of class will not be accepted.

## ***Learning Teams***

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University of Phoenix students are expected to work effectively in diverse groups and teams to achieve tasks. They must collaborate and function well in team settings as both leaders and followers. They should respect human diversity and behave in a tolerant manner toward colleagues and peers. If you experience difficulties working with your team, you are expected to resolve them within the team if possible. However, please feel free to contact me for guidance if you have concerns in this area. Because Learning Team projects are outcome-based, all members of your Learning Team will generally earn the same grade for Learning Team projects. However, I reserve the right to report different grades for different Learning Team members if I see a substantial imbalance in individual contribution. Learning Teams should provide a brief summary of any communication held outside the forum. Therefore, if you hold conference calls, work in a real-time chat room, or get together outside the OLS (Online Learning System) environment in another way, please post a log, transcript, or summary in the **Learning Team** forum. Further, do not use any of these supplementary communication tools unless everyone on your Learning Team agrees to the method and to the schedule. Students who participate in the completion of Learning Team assignments should use the checkbox in the Assignments link to acknowledge their contribution to the team during the week. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Learning Team Charters and Peer Evaluation forms are required. Please see the instructions in the

weekly sections for more information.

It is expected that you will actively participate with your learning team and contribute to the team discussions by a) contributing original work that is accepted and used by the team with proof of originality b) participating in the project from assignment organizing through meaningful final review of the team project for submission, and c) ensuring to your team that your contributions are your original work and properly quoted, cited, and referenced.

## **Classroom Management Policies**

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Local campus facilitators: We will have 10 minutes breaks on the hour. An hourly attendance form will also be distributed. Class participation (1% of your grade each week) will be determined by the fraction of the night you are present. Discussion points will also be affected by this attendance by percent of night present (1% of your grade each week also).

Prepare for class to run the full time 6pm to 10pm. We have a LOT of science from the very tiny to the fantastically large! And, yes, that does include Week 5. On clear nights, we'll go outside and look through/use telescopes on the university grounds near the end of night. I'll also organize a completely optional viewing night or two at my house in Longmont or at the Little Thompson Observatory in Berthoud. <http://www.starkids.org/>. Please dress warmly on cold nights so you can enjoy the real sky. Due to the low contrast (dark) nature of many images in the power point slides and in the video shown on breaks – the room will be fairly dark much of the time.

Please silence (vibrate mode) cell phones and take calls outside of the classroom.

You may bring a laptop to class (to access the textbook) - or bring a printed form of that week's chapter of the e-book textbook.

**Be sure to read the textbook BEFORE completing the homework, that material will help you greatly.**

Necessary course changes will also be reflected at the class back-up page:

[http://www.bikerjohn.com/classes/uop\\_ast/](http://www.bikerjohn.com/classes/uop_ast/)

Classroom PowerPoints will also be available there.

## **Specific Instructor Policies**

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I will return graded work (on time or late) within seven days or less of submission (unless they are beyond the 4 day late without instructor permission).

The current posting of the syllabus (with these instructor policies) override the standard campus syllabus (except for Week 1 assignments). Classroom Power Points will also be available there.

[http://www.bikerjohn.com/classes/uop\\_ast/](http://www.bikerjohn.com/classes/uop_ast/)

## **Grading Scale**

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<b>Grade</b>	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
<b>Percentage</b>	95+	90-94	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	<60

**Note:** If percentage is greater than or equal to 0.5 – the grade is rounded up. If it is below 0.5, the grade is rounded down.

<b>Presentation Rubric</b>	<b>Max pts.</b>
Content	20
Organization of ideas, comprehension of ideas.	20
Presentation Delivery (ums, ah's, 'lost' pauses, appearance, uncluttered/crowded slides, proper pronunciation)	20
Length (15-20min)	20
Questions fielded	20
Total 100	

<b>All Papers' Rubric</b>	
<i>Science Content</i>	50%
<i>Writing Flow/Readability/Appearance (see APA guidelines or similar)</i>	20%
<i>Correct Length (not relying heavily on large chunks of quoted material)</i>	10%
<i>Spelling/Grammar –NOTE: I will use some aspects of the WritePoint to highlight grammatical errors. Please pass your paper through it first and edit accordingly!</i>	10%
<i>Citations/Bibliography (+correct format)</i>	10%

## **Instructor Bio**

I am currently the Senior Science Education Specialist at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies which is a non-profit organization formed (among other things) to conduct independent reviews on all Earth and space science education products produced by or for NASA. ([www.strategies.org](http://www.strategies.org)) My position is the one responsible for directly conducting

these reviews and yearly workshops at NASA centers and at the large education conferences (i.e. NSTA, NCTM) that introduce the products that pass on the criteria of scientific accuracy and classroom usability.

In the 90's I was a master's student and a PhD candidate in meteorology at the University of Oklahoma. I have earned undergraduate degrees in physics, astronomy, geography and meteorology with minors in math and computer science.

I became interested in astronomy in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and began to teach astronomy to cub scouts and boy scouts by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I began to work for the Arizona State University planetarium when Halley's Comet paid the inner solar system a visit in 1985-1986 and taught the astronomy labs, became head TA and eventually taught an astronomy class through the rest of the 80's (as an undergraduate). I have worked an internship at Steward Observatory, at the University of Arizona, Tucson, site testing for the placement of the Mt. Graham observatory complex. I've also observed at the 4-meter telescope at Kitt Peak, a 36" telescope at Kitt Peak, and at the Multi-Mirror Telescope at Mt. Whipple.

More recently, I've successfully run 50+ astronomy nights for Norman Oklahoma residents and OU students and students and the public in Virginia and Maryland, and via the Little Thompson Observatory in northern Colorado. I have also worked at the Science Museum Oklahoma Planetarium for almost 10 years. I've taught astronomy for the college degree completion program at Mid-America Christian University (formerly Mid-America Bible College) for the last 9 years and was a member of the Oklahoma City Astronomy Club. I have also served an internship at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. There are other relevant bits of experience I could put here, but I'll save them for class when they come to mind.