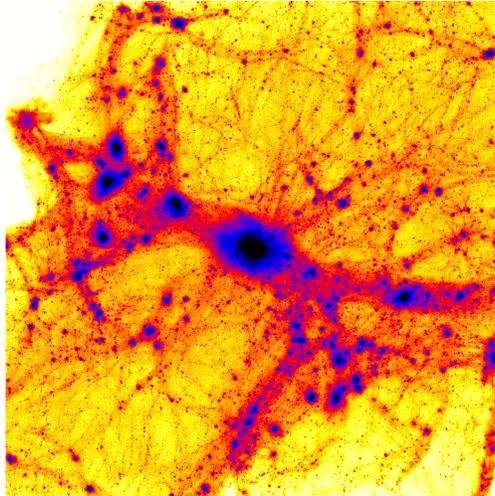


ASTR421: Galaxies (Fall 2012; Mushotzky)



Prof: Richard Mushotzky

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Office hours Monday 15:30-17:00

Wednesday 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Textbook: Galaxies in the Universe: Sparke and Gallagher- Supplementary text
Galaxy Formation and Evolution H. Mo, F. van den Bosch, S. White

•Course description

Astronomy 421 is an introduction to modern studies of galaxies, the building blocks of the universe. We start by briefly looking at the global and basic properties of galaxies. We then discuss the detailed properties of their main baryonic components, stars, gas and dust. We then discuss the MW as a prototype for detailed understanding of other galaxies and then move on to detailed discussions of spiral and elliptical galaxies and dark matter. We then move on to large scale distributions of galaxies (groups and clusters) and then finish with a set of lectures on the centers of galaxies, focusing on active galaxies

http://www.astro.umd.edu/~richard/ASTRO421/index_fall2012.html

It will contain links to course information, homework , additional interesting information and links and lecture notes.

•Course Pre-requisites

It is assumed that you have knowledge of astronomy at the ASTR300 level. In addition, some mathematics (algebra, trigonometry, calculus and geometry) will be required for the classes, homeworks and examinations..

•Course expectations

Attendance: In order to successfully complete this course, I expect you to attend class 2 times a week. If you have to miss a lecture, please be sure to obtain a copy of the notes (either from another student, the web-site, or from me) and make sure that you understand what you missed. There will also be times when I will ask for class participation.

Preparation: I expect you to be prepared to work. We will be covering some fascinating *but* challenging concepts - you will understand this material much more easily if you preview the recommended chapter of the course book ahead of time, as well as giving it a more careful read after the lecture. You also should review your class notes sometime before the next lecture to make sure everything is clear. I encourage you to ask questions in the lectures or during my office hours. The order in which I present some material will differ from the text.

Study Habits: It is better to keep up with the material on a daily basis than cram the night before the exam. I encourage you to chat about problems with your friends and classmates – you will learn a huge amount from trying to explain confusing issues to each other. Please ask for help if you need it.. ***However, all graded materials, including class-assignments and home-works, must be your own thoughts in your own words.***

•Grading

Grades are based on a point scale with different assignments weighted as shown below.

Assignments:

Homework:	25%
Midterm :	20%
Class project	20%
Final :	35%
TOTAL :	100%

Class participation is encouraged but not graded

Letter grades will be assigned based upon your cumulative score. The exam grades will be renormalized.

•Midterm exam

There will be one in-class examination on the 16th Oct 2012. This exam will be closed book and will consist of a section of short answer questions, with essay and problem solving questions. University regulations will apply regarding academic honesty and excused absences. Please see the Schedule of Classes for these policies. If you are not able to take an exam due to illness or other legitimate reasons, you must contact me on or before the day of the exam either by email or voice mail. In addition, you must document the reason for your absence. A make up exam must be taken promptly.

If, for whatever reason, the University is officially closed on the day of the exam, the exam will be re-scheduled for the next lecture date.

•Final exam

As per the University examination schedule, the final exam for this course will be held on Wednesday 19th Dec 2012, 10.30am-12.30pm, in room CSS2428. The final exam is cumulative in the sense that it will cover all material discussed in this course, but stress the second half. The format of the final exam will be the same as the midterm exam, with a section of short answer questions and a section of longer essay or problem solving questions.

•Homeworks

I will aim for a total of 4-6 homeworks in this course. On the due date, homework should be handed in at the front of the class. Homework will be considered late by the end of class. If you cannot make it to class, you should either ask a friend/classmate to hand it in for you, or make sure that it gets to me or Qian (room CSS1104 or 0204) before the time that it is due. If you have a valid emergency, you should send me an email or voice mail message before the due date telling me the nature of the emergency. Please document all such emergencies.

If, for whatever reason, the University is officially closed on the day of the due date, the due date will be moved to the next lecture.

•Term Paper

The term paper will be due the next to last week of the class Tuesday Nov 27 and should be a 'few' pages long on a topic of your own choosing, but clearly related to the class.

Academic Integrity

The University's policies and rules on academic integrity are laid out in the Schedule of Classes. You must never engage in acts of academic dishonesty at any time. Acts of academic dishonesty include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or helping any other person to do these things. These rules apply to homeworks and quizzes as well as exams. As a part of these rules, you must give credit to any book (including the course textbook!), published article or web-page that you have used to help you with a particular assignment. The University and I take these issues extremely seriously.

To underscore the need for academic integrity, the University asks you to write the following pledge on any assignment or exam:
“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.”

Preliminary Course Outline

Lecture #	TOPIC	Text Chapter
Lec 1	INTRODUCTION	
Lec 2	Continuation of introduction	Ch 1
Lec 3	Basic Galaxy Properties	Ch 1
Lecs 4	Relevant Properties of stars	
Lec 5-	Relevant Properties of Gas and Dust	
Lecs 6-7	The Milky Way	Ch 2
Lec 8-9		
Lec 10-11		
Lec 12		
Lec 13		
Lec 14		
EXAM	Oct 16	
Lec 15		
Lec 16		
Lec 17		
Lec 18		
Lec 19		
Lec 20		
Lec 21		
Lec 22		
Lec 23		
Lec 24	Term paper due	
Lec 25		
Lec 26		
Lec 27	Questions	
Lec 28	Summary	