

SCI Coded Course

Course Description

SCI2400

Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics

3 U; 3 Lect.; 1st term

An introductory survey of major ideas in astronomy. Topics covered will include: time and calendar, celestial sphere, light spectrum and telescope structures, solar system, celestial mechanics, relativity, structure of stars and stellar evolution, neutron stars and black holes, galaxies, quasars, and basic cosmology. This course aims at introducing basic concepts of astronomy and astrophysics to students with only secondary school physics and mathematics background. Lectures are designed not only to present a volume of knowledge, but also to arouse students' curiosity in how nature works. Optional star-gazing trips will be arranged. (Not for students who have taken GEE 240M.)