

Astronomy/Meteorology **Mr. DeBruyckere**

Textbook: Astronomy Today, Chaisson & McMillan

In order to guarantee all students in the classroom the excellent learning climate they deserve, the following basic classroom rules have been adopted:

Come to class on time prepared to learn.

Contribute creatively, productively and responsibly during all class activities.

Respect everyone, this includes space, property, and ideas.

Use correct manners and appropriate language.

Food/Beverages Food and/or beverages are not allowed by OSHA rules in a lab. Food and beverages will be confiscated.

MP3 type devices: Students are expected to spend astronomy time on astronomy. A student may listen to iPods and similar devices with earphones after completing a test. At other times there should be some astronomy or weather work for the student to complete.

Consequences of failure to follow rules:

Student will be given a verbal warning.

Student will be held after class to discuss incident, discipline report will be filled out and sent to Dean of Students Office and a copy will be sent home to parents. Parents will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

Detention will be assigned to be completed with the classroom teacher. A discipline report will be filled out and a copy will be sent to the parents. Parents will be contacted by the Dean of Students.

Student will be removed from the class and sent to the office. A parent, student, and administrator conference will be held to re-admit the student into the classroom.

In cases of extreme disruptive behavior, steps one through three will be by-passed and the student will be removed from the class and sent to the Principal's Office.

Tardy: After the 2nd tardy the student will be assigned 1/2 hour of detention to be made up the same day or the next day. Students who fail to complete the detention will be referred to the Dean of Students. For the 5th and all additional tardies the student will receive 45 minutes of office detention. Missing more than 5 minutes of class is an absence, not a tardy. After the 6th absence the class becomes pass/fail, even if all 6 are 6 minute "tardies".

Planners: If a student wishes to leave the room, he or she must get the teacher's permission and carry his or her classroom planner (it contains the student passes). If the student does not have his/her planner the student will not be able to leave or will have to serve 1/2 hour of detention. A student may leave the room a maximum of 6 times per trimester to go to his/her locker, bathroom, etc. For each additional time the student leaves he/she will owe me 1/2 hour of additional class time before or after school.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to conduct themselves honestly and with integrity in their work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are prohibited. Behavior that is unacceptable includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying another student's homework
- Working with others on projects that are meant to be done individually
- Looking at or copying another student's test or quiz answers
- Allowing another student to look at or copy answers from your test or quiz
- Using any other method to get/give test or quiz answers
- Taking a test or quiz in part or in whole to use or to give others
- Copying information from a source without proper attribution
- Taking papers from other students, publications, or the Internet

Violators will be disciplined on a case-by-case basis. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, redoing assignment/retaking test, receiving a failing grade or a lower grade, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

Long Term Assignments (required required to pass the class)

1. Weather Journal You will record the following information **daily** from two locations (one of the locations must be somewhere other than in the state of Minnesota): the day's high & low temperature, the record high and low temperature, the type of cloud cover, precipitation for the day, the current barometric pressure, the current temperature and the time of day. You must record information for at least one of the locations in both "metric" and "English" units. You will also record the forecast for the next day's weather in one of the locations and make a comment about the previous day's forecast compared to the actual conditions. For your information, Hutchinson is located at 94° 23' west and 44°54' north. If a significant part of your weather information is from internet "historical data" (meaning you look up previous days information instead of recording it each day) you will have a 2 letter grade deduction.

3. Star Journal. You will make sketches of the star locations in the sky noting the positions of major stars and constellations. There will be at least 8 early morning or late evening observation sessions (probably more like 12) for your star journal. The early morning sessions will go from 5:30 am to 6:30 am, the late evening sessions will go from about 7 pm to 8 pm (this time may change depending on the schedules of the students). The dates of these sessions will be scheduled on short notice to provide the maximum probability of having clear skies for viewing. The sessions will be held at Lake Marion Park. Dress warm, the best star viewing times are in the coldest weather. **Each student must participate in at least 6 of the observation sessions to pass the class.** You will be graded on your best 8 sessions.

4. Planet Presentation. You will make a class presentation about one of the planets (or possibly sun or "small bodies"). The details will be available later in class about the planet presentations.

Late work: Work that is turned in late will have a 20% penalty for each day it is late. This includes journals. Bring your weather journals to class **every day**. Work is late if not turned in by the end of the period. If you are absent you have 2 days for each day you miss because of illness or one day for each day you miss because of vacation or school activities. If you have been absent, mark "Absent" at the top of your paper so Mr. DeBruyckere can give you proper credit for your work.

Grades: In addition to the long term assignments there will be three or four written tests. On these tests the students may use their notebooks. These tests will be limited by time so it is to the student's advantage to keep a well organized notebook. The long term projects will be 36% of the students grade, homework 18% and the tests will be the other 36%. **The journals will be collected at random from students to check their progress.** 93% is necessary for an A, 90% for an A-, 87% for a B+, 83 % for a B, 80% for a B-, 77% for a C+, 73% for a C, 70% for a C-, 67% for a D+, 63% for a D and 60% for a D-. The trimester final will count for 10% of the trimester grade.

Mr. DeBruyckere
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Course outcomes: Students will be presented with opportunities to learn about basic meteorology and astronomy as well as the basic processes of science. A student that is successful in this class and in geology will have met the requirements for the Earth Science Profile of Learning option of the graduation standards for the State of Minnesota.

Instructor: I have read and fully understand the basic rules for student behavior in your classroom.

Student Signature _____.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____.

Return Date December 5, 2008