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Astronomy

Syllabus and Class Policies for Mrs. Meeks

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Class Blog: <https://meeks-science.weebly.com/>

Welcome to Astronomy! The primary objective of this course is to teach the student problem-solving skills and an analytical thought process associated with doing science; astronomy is simply the tool used to teach these qualities. The secondary objective of the course is to cultivate an appreciation of the universe and its contents. Who are we? What is our place in the universe? How do we know?

**Semester Outline:**

Unit 1: Patterns in the Sky

Unit 2: History of Astronomy

Unit 3: Light and Telescopes

Unit 4: The Solar System

Unit 5: The Sun

Unit 6: Properties of Stars and Stellar Evolution

Unit 7: Galaxies and Cosmology

**Supplies:**

It is each student’s individual responsibility to come fully prepared for class every day. Not coming to class prepared may hinder him/her from being able to fully participate in class activities or earn credit on tasks. The following items below are to be brought to class DAILY unless otherwise noted**\***:

1. **Pencils** (#2) - mechanical is fine
2. **Pens** (blue or black ink)
3. **Highlighter** - color of your choice
4. **Non**-graphing scientific calculator (must be capable of calculating exponents and logarithms)
5. **\*Astronomy Textbook** -
   1. Each student will be assigned a textbook by number **for class use only**
   2. For home use you will be assigned an Online textbook (ebook)
6. **Astronomy Notebook** (should solely be dedicated to your Astronomy files)
   1. 3 Ring Binder 2 inch with notebook paper
   2. You should have 8 Dividers-1 for each unit and the last one for final exam review

**The following policies are common for all Astronomy classes:**

**GRADING:**  Homework/Classwork/Mini-Lab Activities 10%

Quizzes 15%

Projects 25%

Unit Tests 40%

Final Exam: 10%

The **Final Exam** will cover material studied over the course of the entire semester. Early prep and study are imperative for success.

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| **Cobb county Grading Scale**  A→ 90%-100%  B→ 80%-89%  C→ 74%-79%  D→ 70%-73%  F→ 69% or below | **Synergy Gradebook (ParentVUE)**  It is recommended that all parents check Synergy on a weekly basis. Synergy access information can be obtained from the Hillgrove Counseling Office. Tasks will be updated as they are assessed & will then be entered into Synergy. Students should take ownership for their grades and as such should be the first to address any grade issues with the instructor. |

**Expectations:**

1. Be ***Present*** in class: Attendance is critical to success in this class
2. Be ***Punctual***: If you are late—get a pass or tardy slip
3. Be ***Prepared*** for class (ie… paper/pencil etc..) and be alert in class. Have fun, ask questions and get involved.
4. Be ***Polite*** to teacher, classmates, and respect the classroom and lab equipment
5. Be ***Positive*:** Come in with a great attitude, have fun, work hard, ask questions and get involved.
6. Be ***Focused***: Cell phones have become a way of life, a technological convenience that has a huge impact all over our lives in one way or another. However, in the school environment, cell phones have become a HUGE distraction, interruption, and a method of illegal exchange of information. The usage of cell phones during class takes away valuable time needed for instruction and most importantly, student learning. I do realize that the cell phone can be a safety /security tool, however, they must be put away unless special arrangements have been made with me. No student will be able to use a cell phone during class, UNLESS authorized for a class assignment*.*

**Technology Policy:**

Personal electronic devices (PEDs) may be used before 8:15 A.M., during your assigned lunch in the cafeteria, and after 3:30 P.M.  There will be occasion for class use of school laptops and/or personal PEDs as assigned for the purpose of a specific educational task in class.  Specific websites and guidelines will be assigned for each task. Failure to comply with the instructions assigned in class or any other unauthorized use of PEDs in class may result in further disciplinary action.

1. Be ***Honest***:

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating is considered a serious matter. The parents of a student who has been involved with cheating will be notified and the student will receive a grade of zero for that test or assignment being copied

For Hillgrove High School, cheating is defined as, but is *not limited to*, the following acts:

* 1. Taking information of any form into a test situation for responding to test items.
  2. Plagiarism – Using the ideas or words of others without proper documentation.
  3. Copying the work of others when the copied material will count as part of the semester grade. This includes the copying of computer disks and files.
  4. Communicating test information to others in or out of class.
  5. Use or display of a cell phone during testing (administrative action).
  6. Taking test questions (complete tests, answer key, teacher’s edition) to provide assistance in later test situations (administrative action).
  7. Selling, buying, or using papers written by another party (administrative action).

**Discipline:**

Failure to follow classroom procedures may result in any of the following depending upon the severity of the offense:

* Verbal Warning
* Teacher/Student Conference
* Teacher Detention and Parent Contact
* Parent Contact and a Discipline Referral

**Note:** All detentions are assigned in the mornings due to Mrs. Meeks is only on campus 1st and 2nd Block.

If you are unable to serve on the date and time assigned, you must reschedule with Mrs. Meeks prior to the assigned day to serve your detention within ONE week from the date assigned.

**Remediation Policy** –

Students who score below a 74% on any exam may choose to remediate. Students will have two weeks from the date that test scores are posted in synergy to complete the unit remediation. Students are allowed a maximum of **3** retests per semester. It is advised that you come in at least once to review your old exam and get one on one help from Mrs. Meeks. Tutoring is held in Room 1221 Tuesday and Friday mornings 7:45am-8:15am by appointment made 24 hours in advance. If you fail to show 3 times to morning tutoring during a semester, then you will lose the privilege of tutoring.

**Make-up work** –

Students with excused absences are allowed and expected to make-up work and tests in accordance to school policy. **The student is responsible for checking the blog and obtaining missed assignments** without disrupting the flow of class. If you miss a quiz, you will take it the day you return to class. If you miss a test, you need to schedule a make-up time with Mrs. Meeks. Failure to show up for an appointment will result in a zero for the test.  **If you are absent the day before a test (also known as the “review day”) you are still required to take the test on the regularly scheduled test day.** For work collected during your absence, a zero will be put into synergy and will not be replaced until you complete the assignment/quiz.

**Extra Help:**

Anyone needing extra help is encouraged to visit Mrs. Meeks before school in Room 1221 from 7:45 am-8:15 am. You may come any morning for extra help, but must be scheduled ahead of time since I often times have meetings. I am only on campus for 1st and 2nd block, so tutoring and makeups will need to be scheduled for mornings only.

**Tardy Policy and Hall Passes:**

To avoid being counted tardy, students must be in the classroom ready to learn when the bell rings. If tardy, you will be required to obtain a tardy pass from either one of the tardy machines or the attendance office in order to be permitted into class. Students will be referred to an administrator on the FOURTH tardy to any class in which they will issue a consequence.

Hall passes are required to leave the room for any reason. Students must request permission and utilize the Hillgrove passes that Mrs. Meeks will provide when wanting to leave the classroom. Any student who abuses the hall pass policy will have their privilege revoked for the remainder of the semester-this includes excessive requests to leave the room for any reason. Please attempt to use the restroom in between classes. We will be learning bell to bell!

**NO STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE ROOM DURING NOTES, VIDEOS OR ASSESSMENTS (QUIZ/TEST).**

*The first and last 15 minutes of every class is “dead time” (no hall passes will be issued and no students will be allowed to leave the room).*

**Start of Class Expectations:**

It is very important that you get to class on time and come prepared. At the beginning of every class you will need to gather your materials for the day from the designated table and **follow the warm-up instructions that will be on the board.** The first few minutes of class will be allotted for you to get ready for the class ahead. **It is imperative that all students read and follow the instructions posted.**

**Cell Phones**

All students are expected to have their cell phones put away (NOT VISIBLE) upon entering the classroom. Designated times to use while working will be announced, otherwise it should not be out. See cell phone policy above.

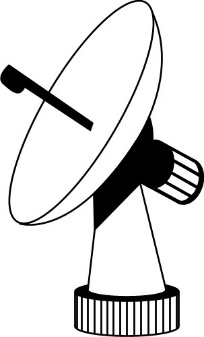
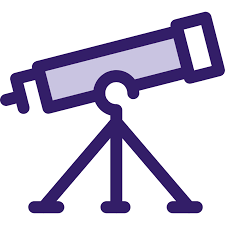
**Computers/Laptops**

Throughout the semester students will utilize the school computer labs and laptops. These technologies must be respected and returned in the manner that they were found/issued. If something is wrong with a device then that must be immediately reported to the teacher. NO settings on computers/laptops should be changed.

**Blog & other online resources**

The blog for this course on is the Hillgrove webpage under the science department tab. The agenda content is updated frequently during the week. Students should check my blog regularly. There are other resources available to students in addition to the daily agenda. Assignments requiring online links will always be available on my blog for ease of access.

Students need to manage their time and resources with respect to computer access. Computer failure will not be an excuse for missing online assignments, therefore please plan accordingly and work to troubleshoot any problems that arise.



**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)**

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| ***How should I study for this class? Can I have a study guide?***  You will get a study guide each unit that you are expected to know for the test. These are not required, but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to complete on your own. | ***Do you give extra credit?***  NO. You are expected to do the work that is  assigned to you. Extra credit will NEVER be given in this class. |

**SYLLABUS/ LAB SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ASTRONOMY**

**READ THE FOLLOWING LIST OF CONDITIONS CAREFULLY. SHOW THE SYLLABUS AND SAFETY RULES TO YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND HAVE THEM SIGN IN SPACE BELOW.**

**RETURN TO: Mrs. Meeks BY: January 11, 2019**

* + I have read and understand all the attached policies and guidelines.
  + I understand that the final grade in this course directly relates to regular attendance, intense preparation, and constructive participation, completion of projects and assignments, and acceptable behavior.
  + I understand that each student is responsible for his/her own education.
  + I understand that grades are earned, not given.
  + I understand that each student is able to ask for assistance at any time and that Mrs. Meeks welcomes the opportunity to help!

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_