

Point Loma Nazarene University
Department of Physics and Engineering
PSC1004: Cosmos (4 units)
MWF 10:55-12:10; Liberty Station 203
Fall 2022: August 30 - December 9

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Office hours: MTWRF 6:15-7:20 (RS258) / Appointment as needed (also via zoom)

PLNU Mission: To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

The Physics and Engineering Department at PLNU provides strong programs of study in the fields of Physics and Engineering. Our students are well prepared for graduate studies and careers in scientific and engineering fields. We emphasize a collaborative learning environment which allows students to thrive academically, build personal confidence, and develop interpersonal skills. We provide a Christian environment for students to learn values and judgment, and pursue integration of modern scientific knowledge and Christian faith.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

Course Description

An introduction to our place in the universe emphasizing religious, cultural and historic perspectives including modern developments in physics and astronomy. (Meets a Foundational

Explorations requirement; does not count toward any Chemistry or Physics majors.)

Course Learning Outcomes

Through this course students develop skills so they will be able to:

1. apply basic scientific principles to address topics in cosmology and astronomy
2. explain observations of the cosmos in terms of scientific processes
3. apply a scientific approach to ask and address questions about our planet, galaxy, and universe
4. solve qualitative and quantitative problems relevant to introductory astronomy
5. discuss how modern science relates to human culture and the origins of cosmology

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

This course is one of the components of the Foundational Experience program at Point Loma Nazarene University, through which students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning. Specifically, this course supports this broader context in developing FELO 1e. Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

Required texts and Recommended Study Resources

1. Electronic Access to: Understanding Our Universe, 4th edition by Stacy Palen, ISBN 9780393533873
2. Calculator

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated course learning outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirements can be provided upon request.

Assessment and Grading

Graded Components:

- (5%) Preclass assignments: Each class day there will a few questions to answer electronically. These will typically be due by 10 am the hour before class. Your responses to the preclass questions are graded on the following scale: 2=demonstrates reading/thinking; 1=significant room for improvement, 0=unsatisfactory.
- (20%) Activities: Through the semester 5 small projects can be selected as described in class (and on canvas)
- (25%) Homework: Through the semester, to improve your understanding to topics you will

be homework assignments for each chapter. To develop a skill it is important to practice it!

- (30%) 4 In-semester exams. Exams will include both multiple-choice or short answer conceptual questions, and problems to solve. Exams will be closed book, but a sheet of formulas will be provided to you to use during your exam. Partial credit will be given for correct reasoning at any step of a problem, but only if it is communicated clearly enough for me to understand. For problems that call for a solution or explanation, no credit will be given for an answer alone; the method or reasoning must also be shown.
- (20%) Final exam: Posted with the Liberty Station Final Schedule

Final Grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 92-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-91	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formation](#).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

Final Exam

The final exam date and time is set by the university at the beginning of the semester and may not be changed by the instructor. This schedule can be found on the university website and in

the course calendar. No requests for early examinations will be approved. Only in the case that a student is required to take three exams during the same day of finals week, is an instructor authorized to consider changing the exam date and time for that particular student.

Late Assignments and Exam Policy

No examination shall be missed without prior consent or a well-documented emergency beyond your control. A score of zero will be assigned for an examination that is missed without prior consent or a well-documented emergency beyond your control.

Homework and Lab assignments that are submitted late without prior consent will have an automatic deduction of 20 percent per day late. Preclass assignments submitted late will not earn points.

Class Enrollment

It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

Incompletes

Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services,

and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

Assignments at-a-glance

Date	Topic	Reading
8/30	Introductions	
8/31	Our Place in the Universe	1.1-1.3
9/02		2.1-2.2

	Patterns in the Sky: Vocab and Seasons	
9/07	Patterns in the Sky: the Moon	2.3-2.4
9/09	Laws of Motion I	3.1-3.2
9/12	Laws of Motion II	3.3-3.4
9/14	Laws of Motion III	3.4-3.5
9/16	Light and Telescopes	4.1-4.3
9/19	Light and Telescopes & Wrap-up	4.3
9/21	Test Section 1: Introduction to Astronomy	
9/23	The formation of Stars and Planets I	5.1-5.3
9/26	The formation of Stars and Planets II	5.4-5.6
9/28	Inner Solar System I	6.1-6.3
9/30	Inner Solar System II	6.4-6.5
10/03	Atmospheres I	7.1-7.3
10/05	Atmospheres II	7.3-7.5
10/07	Giant Planets I	8.1-8.3
10/10	Giant Planets II	8.3-8.5
10/12	Smaller Bodies I	9.1-9.3
10/14	Smaller Bodies II	9.4-9.6
10/17	Test Section 2: The Solar System	
10/19	Measuring the Stars I	10.1-10.2
10/24	Measuring the Stars II	10.3-10.4
10/26	The Sun I	11.1-11.2
10/28	The Sun II	11.3-11.4
10/31	Low Mass Stars I	12.1-12.3

11/02	Low Mass Stars II	12.4-12.6
11/04	High Mass Stars I	13.1-13.3
11/07	High Mass Stars and Black Holes	13.4-13.6
11/09	Test 3: The Stars	
11/11	Measuring Galaxies I	14.1-14.2
11/14	Measuring Galaxies II	14.3-14.4
11/16	Dark Matter I	15.1-15.2
11/18	Dark Matter II	15.3-15.4
11/21	The Universe I	16.1-16.3
11/28	The Universe II	16.4-16.6
11/30	Structure I	17.1-17.3
12/02	Structure II	17.4-17.5
12/05	Test 4: Cosmology	
12/07	Life in the Universe I	18.1-18.4
12/09	Life in the Universe II	18.1-18.4
12/14	Final Exam	