

EARTH SCIENCES 2150 : THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND PLANETARY SCIENCE: PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR FALL 2022

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This short document is provided to accompany some orientation materials for those registered or interested in registering for the course in the Fall Semester of 2022.

COURSE DELIVERY FOR 2022

The course will be delivered in a *hybrid mode* that will allow students to participate fully online, or attend in-person classes weekly, or opt for any desired combination. *However, all students will be expected to do some independent learning from online materials.* Remote delivery methods and materials were developed during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and it makes sense to continue using some of these as needed. Online class materials are provided using presentation files in Adobe PDF format and associated podcasts in MP3 format. Essentially, students can tune in to *Radio Solar System* individually or in groups, on their own schedules.

There will also be in-person classes most weeks, scheduled for Wednesday evenings (7.00 to ~ 8.30 pm). These provide summary lectures for each module in the course, information on topical research in Planetary Science, and also allow discussion/Q&A on course materials and issues. The summary classes will be available online, and detailed online classes (typically two per module) will provide additional information and explanation for specific topics. Optional online discussion/Q&A sessions are scheduled for Thursdays (6.00 pm to 7.00 pm) for participants, and these are open to those who are attending in-person classes. Additional optional online discussion/Q&A sessions may be scheduled on other days, according to needs and requests.

Course assessments consist of online quizzes (multiple choice and true/false format) that *must be completed in a defined time slot* (most Wednesdays, 8.30 pm to 11.00 pm). MUN regulations stipulate that assessments must at least overlap regular scheduled class times. However, availability of quizzes can be adjusted (within limits) upon request for students with genuine timing conflicts. The weekly quizzes take no more than 40 minutes to complete; accommodations will be provided for students registered with the Blundon Centre. Learning assignments for the course have no defined time slot for completion, but they will have deadlines for submission. Students are invited to contribute to the course by researching and providing information on 'hot new topics' in Planetary Science, which can then be discussed as part of our sessions. This activity is not for credit, but rather a measure of your participation and interest.

The final examination date and its time slot will be set by the University, but availability can be adjusted (within limits) for students with genuine timing conflicts. The online examination will include multiple choice and true/false questions related to all parts of the course, and a take-home component will require submission of short written accounts summarizing key concepts and material from the course. See the formal course outline for more information on assessment methods and dates.

EXAMPLE MATERIALS TO GET YOU STARTED

A short orientation presentation is supplied as a PDF file and an accompanying MP3 Podcast. You should download these materials, look at the presentation and listen to the Podcast. This will explain how things are intended to work.

Demonstration quizzes will be available in Brightspace (see below) from the first day of classes until September 21. There is no credit for completing these items, and no requirement to do so, but they will provide valuable orientation as to question types and formats. The content is a mixture of general knowledge that you should already have and some material related to Modules 1 and 2 of the course. You can attempt the demonstration quizzes up to 5 times, to facilitate learning, but of course the real quizzes will only allow one attempt. Answers to all questions will be available online later, and can be discussed in weekly sessions.

An example of a “Learning Crossword” is also supplied, as a PDF file. These puzzles are not difficult, but they will make you think, and finding the answers will help in the learning process. The content resembles that of the demonstration quizzes; you likely will not know *all* the answers, but the point is that you will need to research them. An answer sheet will be available online in Brightspace on the first day of classes, and you can complete this as many times as you wish until September 21. The solutions to this and to all subsequent puzzles will be posted online. The example Learning Crossword is available until September 21.

BRIGHTSPACE COURSE SITE

All participants will need to use the EASC 2150 Course Site in the **Brightspace** Online Learning System. You will also need this for most other courses. If you have not used Brightspace, go to the MUN home page (www.mun.ca) and select <online learning> from the <Login> button. This will allow you to log in with your MUN ID and password. You should then see the Course Site easily – it is the one with the eight planets in a row. ***Pay particular attention to the <News and Announcements> Tab as this is where all important information is communicated to the class.*** Also pay attention to Calendar items, in order to keep your studies on track. It is recommended that the Brightspace Site be checked every day, including weekends. There will be announcements and reminders there on most days through the semester! The Brightspace Course Site will be open on September 7th, and possibly will be opened a few days in advance of that date, but it takes time to build and populate.

MARKS AND RELATED MATTERS

For full details of the assessment system and for the scheduled dates of online quizzes, see the formal course outline. Students will be able to access their marks for individual grade items within Brightspace’s Gradebook as the semester progresses, but summaries of weighted marks and projections will *not* be available directly from Brightspace online. This is because processing and calculation is much easier and quicker if it is completed outside the online learning system. However, listings of marks, summary information and projections of likely grades will be available for students to download in PDF format.