

**Course:** AST 376C: COSMOLOGY

**Semester:** Fall 2021

**Unique No.:** 48350

**Hours:** T, Th 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Online (subject to future UT policy + Covid status); PMA 5.104 (2 in-person exams)

**Textbook:** (Required) Ryden, B. *Introduction to Cosmology* (2016) (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (Cambridge University Press) ISBN 9781107154834

**Exams:** There will be two exams during the semester and no final exam. Exams are in-person, socially-distanced, and all are strongly encouraged to be masked and vaccinated.  
Tentative Exam Dates: October 19, December 2.

**Homework:** There will be required reading assignments. Problem sets will be assigned regularly and must be turned in, submitted online as .pdf file uploads via Canvas. HW is due by 11:59 PM on the due date. Late HW is discouraged but will be accepted with a maximum possible score of 80% of on-time HW, if turned in by the *start* of the next Help Session following the due date. Since HW solutions will be discussed at that Help Session, no later HW will be accepted.

**Daily Questions:**

Class lectures are essential to this course. Students must engage actively with them in order to learn, by regular attendance and note-taking and by asking and answering questions during class. Most classes (except exam days) will end with a Daily Question, with answers collected and graded.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on the weighted average of the scores on a midterm exam (20%), a second-half exam (20%), homework sets (50%), and Daily Questions (10%). We will drop your lowest homework grade before computing your final average homework grade, and drop your two lowest Daily Question grades before computing your final average Daily Question grade.

**Quantitative Reasoning Flag:**

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

### **Course Materials:**

#### ***Sharing of course materials is prohibited.***

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, and homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside class without the professor's explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing promotes cheating. It violates the University's Student Honor Code and is an act of academic dishonesty. Materials found online that are associated with a student, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students, which may result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

### **Class Recordings:**

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. ***These recordings should not be shared outside of the class in any form.*** Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

### **Instructor:**

Prof. Paul Shapiro  
Office: PMA 16.204  
Phone: 471-9422 or leave word at 471-3000  
email: shapiro@astro.as.utexas.edu  
Office Hours: Immediately following class or by appointment (online via Zoom)

### **T.A.:**

Dustin Davis  
Office: PMA 16.308  
Cell Phone: XXX  
email: dustin.davis@utexas.edu  
Office Hours: Tu, Wed 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. (online via Zoom)

**Help Session:** M, Th 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (online via Zoom)

### **Grader:**

Neel Nagarajan  
Cell Phone: XXX  
email: neelnagarajan@utexas.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 5 – 6 PM (online via Zoom)

### **Covid and Possible Changes to this Class:**

As Covid-19 or UT rules and policies related to it evolve, we may have to adjust some of the details described above, accordingly.