



# ASTR3010

## Astrophysics

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Department of Physics and Astronomy*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor, Lecturer

Tayyaba Zafar

[tayyaba.zafar@mq.edu.au](mailto:tayyaba.zafar@mq.edu.au)

7WW (E6B) 1.129

Orsola De Marco

[orsola.demarco@mq.edu.au](mailto:orsola.demarco@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(MATH235 or MATH2010) and (PHYS201 or PHYS2010) and (PHYS202 or PHYS2020)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The first part of this unit covers the physical mechanisms responsible for the generation, absorption and scattering of light in environments as diverse as rarefied nebulae, hot compact stellar atmospheres and distant galaxies. During the second part of the unit the theory of stellar structure and evolution is developed. Students become familiar with the UNIX computing environment and the python programming language, and carry out a project using computer models of how stars live and die.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** discuss principles and difficulties of observational methods that allow us to interpret the physical characteristics of an astronomical object based on the light we receive from it.

**ULO2:** demonstrate knowledge of the way radiation interacts with matter in different astrophysical environments through solving radiative transfer problems.

**ULO3:** describe the internal structure of our Sun and stars other than the Sun, and explain the key observational properties of different types of stars.

**ULO4:** apply the equations of stellar structure and the simplifications that lead to polytropic stellar models.

**ULO5:** explain the processes and physics involved in stellar evolution, including the processes that bring about stellar death.

**ULO6:** apply computational techniques to model physical phenomena in different astrophysical environments using the Unix environment and elements of the python computing language.

## Assessment Tasks

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

## General Assessment Information

The 'estimated time on task' for each assessment item is an estimate of the *additional* time needed to complete each assessment outside of all scheduled learning activities. These estimates assume that you actively engage with all scheduled learning activities *and* spend an additional **24 hours of self-led study** during the session.

### Hurdle tasks

This unit has hurdle requirements, specifying a minimum standard that must be attained in aspects of the unit. To pass this unit you must obtain marks of at least 40% in the final examination, 40% in the laboratory project, and (of course) an overall 50% in the unit.

### Supplementary examinations

If you receive [special consideration](#) for the final exam, a supplementary exam will be scheduled in the interval between the regular exam period and the start of the next session. By making a special consideration application for the final exam you are declaring yourself available for a resit during the supplementary examination period and will not be eligible for a second special consideration approval based on pre-existing commitments. Please ensure you are familiar with the [policy](#) prior to submitting an application. You can check the supplementary exam information page on FSE101 in iLearn ([bit.ly/FSESupp](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/122396/unit_guide/print)) for dates, and approved applicants will receive an individual notification one week prior to the exam with the exact date and time of their supplementary examination.

If you are given a second opportunity to sit the final examination as a result of failing to meet the minimum mark required, you will be offered that chance during the same supplementary examination period and will be notified of the exact day and time after the publication of final results for the unit.

### Late Assessments Policy

The non-examination assessment components should be submitted via iLearn by the due date and time.

The penalty for late submission is deduction of 5% of the possible mark for that item for each 24 hour period (or part) overdue. Assessments will not be accepted for marking if submitted more than 1 week past the due date. Extensions to the due dates for assignments, practical assessments, and project will only be considered if requested with valid reason prior to the due date.

Students anticipating or experiencing difficulties in meeting a deadline should discuss this with one of the lecturers in the first instance, ideally ahead of the deadline, if at all possible. Students should also be familiar with the University's provisions for [Special Considerations](#).

## Delivery and Resources

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

Your lecturers are Dr Tayyaba Zafar and Professor [Orsola De Marco](#). The lectures will include some tutorial-style material with problem solving examples.

Lab sessions will be conducted in the Physics and Astronomy computer lab, and will make use of Python Notebooks, running via the Anaconda python package. **Note that labs start in Week 1.**

Resources will be announced on iLearn. There is no required text, but the course will be closely based on material drawn from one of our favourite books: "An Introduction to Modern Astrophysics" by Carroll and Ostlie.

## Unit Schedule

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

Week 1: Introduction to stars and astrophysical radiation

Week 2: Properties of radiation fields

Week 3: Saha and Boltzmann Equations

Week 4: Atomic processes

Week 5: Radiative transfer

Week 6: Bremsstrahlung from HII regions and clusters of galaxies

Week 7: Opacity in stellar interiors

Week 8: Stellar structure equations

Week 9: Thermodynamics and convection

Week 10: Stellar energy generation and nucleosynthesis

Week 11: Stellar evolution

Week 12: The evolution of massive stars

Week 13: Stellar remnants

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of

Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.