

Syllabus for Astr 5453: Cosmology (Spring 2014)

Course Information

Instructor: Prof. Yun Wang, NH 327, wang@nhn.ou.edu,
(405) 325-3961, ext 36327 (office).

Textbook: “Cosmological Physics”, by John A. Peacock.
Cambridge University Press (1999)

Meeting Time and Place: MW: 2:30-3:45pm, NH 302

Office Hours: Stop by anytime. All students are strongly encouraged to discuss with Prof. Wang anything related to cosmology.

General Description

This is a graduate level introduction course in cosmology. The emphasis will be on a comprehensive understanding of the basic and current picture of cosmology, and acquiring the basic skills in performing calculations in cosmology. Students are assumed to be comfortable with physics, calculus and mathematical manipulations. Students who are not interested in the technical details in cosmology should *not* take this course.

Course Requirements

Attendance: Students are required to attend all the lectures and in-class research presentations.

Homework: All homework must be turned in on time. Late homework will not be accepted and will receive no credit. Please write your homework clearly and neatly; illegible homework will not be graded and will receive no credit. Students are encouraged to discuss problems with each other, but each student is expected to work out and write up the problems independently.

Term Paper: Around the middle of the semester, each student will be asked to choose a research topic (from a list to be distributed) to study independently in depth. This will lead to a term paper that satisfies specified guidelines.

Research Presentation: Each student will give a 25 minute presentation on their chosen research topic near the end of the semester. This will provide feedback for fine-tuning the term paper.

Course Grade

10% attendance, 50% homework, 10% research presentation, and 30% term paper.