

INTRO TO STARGAZING



A GRAND TOUR OF THE COSMOS

Do you want to rekindle your childhood fascination with the starry night sky? Learn how to navigate the night sky – a cosmic parade of seasonal stars/constellations, planets, the Moon, comets, and meteor showers with star-charts, binoculars, and a telescope. Understand how and why the stars and planets move the way they do. Other topics: the Sun, stars, galaxies, and the Universe. Taught by an enthusiastic life-long amateur astronomer. ☺

Item #24155, **Spring term 2026**, Fee: \$55

Date: Tuesday evenings (3-sessions); **April 7th, 14th, 21st**; 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm

Where: PCC – Southeast Campus (SE 82nd and Division), *in-person*, Tabor Hall, Room 125

Instructor: Prof. Kyle Dittmer, office (day/VM): 503-731-1314, kdittmer@pcc.edu

TOPICS:

- Introduction: Branches of Astronomy; Viewing the Sky, Cycles of Moon and Sun, Eclipses of the Sun and Moon.
- Instruments of Astronomy: Radiation, Light Waves; Telescopes (how to use) – Optical, Radio, UV.
- The Sun: Basics of Solar Science, Sun's Atmosphere and Structure, Solar Activity (including CMEs) & Sunspots.
- The Planets: Terrestrial (inner) and Outer; Origin of the Solar System, Earth; Asteroids, Comets, Meteors.
- Stars – Stellar Astronomy: Distance and Luminosity, Classification, Structure, Birth-Evolution-Decline-Death.
- Galaxies: Milky Way Galaxy, Galactic Properties and Structure; Galactic Classification and Evolution.
- Cosmology: The “Big Bang” Theory, Structure of the Universe, Dark Matter/Energy.
- Life on Other Worlds: Life beyond Earth. ☺

FORMAT:

Lecture format, PowerPoint slideshows, National Geographic films, and You-Tube videos. Some class time will be reserved for on-campus star viewing. Students are encouraged to share their views and experiences on star gazing.

It's easy to register! To register online, go to: <http://www.pcc.edu/enroll/registration/non-credit-registration.html/>.

You can also register by calling 971-722-8888. You will need to know the 5-digit CRN for the class you want to take.



You May Be Eligible For a Tax Credit!

Based on the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, you may qualify for an educational tax credit. For more information, please contact a tax advisor, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or visit the PCC web site at: www.pcc.edu/enrolling/tax.htm

Portland Community College is an Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity Institution.

If you have a disability that requires any special materials, services, or assistance, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities, 503-977-4341, TTY 503-977-4877, at least 72 hours prior to the first class so we may arrange appropriate accommodations. For general information via TTY, call 503-977-4877.

