STARGAZING 101



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, extraterrestrial Life, and the Universe. Taught by an enthusiastic life-long amateur astronomer. ☺

Item#xxxxx, **Winter term 2027**, Fee: $129; Prime-Time/Lifelong Learning series
Date: Thursday afternoons (5-sessions); February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, March 4th; 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Where: CTC Campus (18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd), *in-person*, Room #338
Instructor: Prof. Kyle Dittmer, office (day/VM): 503-731-1314, kdittmer@clark.edu

TOPICS:
-- Introduction: Branches of Astronomy; Viewing the Sky, Cycles of Moon and Sun, Eclipses of the Sun and Moon.
-- History of Astronomy: Ancient Times, Renaissance Era – Galileo, Newton; Modern Era – Einstein, Sagan.
-- 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: Prospects of Life beyond Earth (e.g., the Drake Equation). 😊 Ethno/Archaeo Astronomy.
-- Optional: An evening stargazing event will be offered in Vancouver to help reinforce concepts learned in class.

FORMAT:
Lecture format, PowerPoint slideshows, a National Geographic film, and You-Tube videos. Students are encouraged to share their views and experiences on stargazing.

Community and Continuing Education classes are Clark College's non-credit course options - they are often connected to academic pathways at Clark College. More about the CCE program: https://www.clark.edu/cce/about-cce/
CCE FAQ: https://www.clark.edu/cce/about-cce/faq.php. Register online or call us at (360) 992-2939.

