



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2022

Astronomy for physicists 210 (PHY 210)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	24.00
NQF Level	06
Programmes	BSc (Physics)
Prerequisites	PHY 114, PHY 124
Contact time	1 discussion class per week, 1 practical per week, 4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Physics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Introduction to the universe: distance and time scales. Solar System overview. Techniques of astronomy: telescopes and optics, basic radio receiver. Solar system: gas giants, terrestrial planets, small bodies. Stellar evolution and death. Interstellar medium: gas, dust, molecules and masers. Supernova and Pulsars: galaxies and the Milky Way, galactic evolution and classification. Quasars, apparent superluminal motion, black holes. Big Bang, and the age of the universe. Expansion of the universe. SKA, MeerKAT, SALT, HESS and history of astronomy in SA. Other current topics in astronomy.

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