

Fun Facts

Dr. Aileen A. O'Donoghue
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<https://myslu.stlawu.edu/~aodo/SLU/astronomy/index.htm>

TEXTS: **Pasachoff:** Peterson Field Guides: Stars and Planets,
Ryan: Cycles, **Raymo:** 365 Starry Nights, Raymo
Fraknoi: OpenStax Astronomy

SCIENCE

Science is simply a long and careful look beneath and beyond the world's skin. In the same field where I see only a muddle of anonymous green, Henry David Thoreau, scientist of Walden Pond, saw infinite variety: cotton grass, foxtail, life-everlasting, goldenrod, Saint Johnswort, mullein, meadowsweet. An astronomer sees a sky far richer than mine, filled with quasars and pulsars, galaxies and nebulae. In all that bickering at the bird feeder, an ornithologist sees pair bonds and pecking order. In that annoying rock dug out of the strawberry patch, a geologist sees grey granite left in the 10,000-year-old path of glaciers. This new depth of seeing has taken us from the beetles in our own back yards to the particles inside the atom and the gaseous glow at the end of the universe.

-- Rebecca Rupp

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **Attendance** - Attendance is required and will count as one exam.
 - **Classwork**- Class exercises completed & handed in during class period
 - 50% of attendance
- 2) **Observing** - Each will be explained at the time of assignment
 - CONSTELLATIONS - worth one exam
 - STAR-WATCHING - worth one exam
 - SUN-WATCHING - worth one exam
 - MOON-WATCHING - worth one exam
- 3) **Exams** - Three as scheduled in the calendar, part individual, part group work.
- 4) **Final** - Scheduled for **8:30 AM, Sunday, December 13, 2026**.
 - **Cumulative** over all material from the semester (*Yep, all of it!*)
 - Worth **twice** as much as a regular exam

**YOU MUST COMPLETE THE
OBSERVING PROJECTS TO
PASS THE COURSE!!**

AN EXAM IS WORTH 1/10TH OR 10% OF THE FINAL GRADE

THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE A SIMPLE AVERAGE OF ALL THE GRADES SCALED TO:

4.0	3.75	3.5	3.25	3.0	2.75	2.5	2.25	2.0	1.75	1.5	1.25	1.0	0.0
>94%	91-94	88-91	85-88	82-85	79-82	76-79	73-76	70-73	67-70	64-67	61-64	58-61	<58

with the instructor's subjective freedom for the treatment of borderline cases!

CANVAS

Lecture Power Points in the Resources Folder

WEBSITE: myslu.stlawu.edu/~aodo/SLU/astronomy/index.htm

Class Documents (syllabus, calendar, texts, information about Aileen)

Assignment lists, copies, due dates, and solutions

THE WORD STUDIO: [MAILTO:WORDSTUDIO@STLAWU.EDU](mailto:WORDSTUDIO@STLAWU.EDU)

Located in Owen D. Young Library, the WORD Studio offers both online and face-to face tutorials for your papers, speeches, posters, and reading assignments. We want to make you the best writer and speaker you can be at SLU. Our tutors are thoroughly trained and friendly peers who can:

- Help you understand an assignment
- Help you build an argument or structure in papers and oral presentations
- Help you expand your vocab and work on sentence structure
- Work with you on a powerpoint or poster
- Refine your reading skills
- Help you learn to avoid plagiarism through proper citation

The WORD Studio offers ESL and science writing specialists, but all of our tutors are trained to assist with any communication assignment. The WORD Studio is open until 9pm Sunday-Thursday, and until 2pm on Fridays, but appointments are required. Schedule a tutorial by going to the WORD Studio website.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS): [MAILTO:STUDENTACCESSIBILITY@STLAWU.EDU](mailto:STUDENTACCESSIBILITY@STLAWU.EDU)

Your experience in this class is important to me. It is the policy and practice of St. Lawrence University to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established accommodations with the SASs Office, please meet with them to activate your accommodations so we can discuss how they will be implemented in this course.

If you have not yet established services through the SAS Office but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), please contact the SAS Office directly to set up a meeting to discuss establishing with their office. The SAS Office will work with you on the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

Color-Vision Deficiency:

If you are Color-Vision Deficient, the Student Accessibility Services office has on loan glasses for students who are color vision deficient. Please contact the office to make an appointment.

For more specific information about setting up an appointment with Student Accessibility Services please see the listed options below:

Telephone: (315) 229-5537, Website: <https://www.stlawu.edu/student-accessibility-services>

The Peterson Quantitative Resource Center (PQRC): [MAILTO:PQRC@STLAWU.EDU](mailto:PQRC@STLAWU.EDU)

Located in Valentine Hall, it offers free, no appointment necessary peer tutoring across a range of courses with quantitative content. The PQRC student staff of mentors is trained to assist students to develop and to improve their quantitative skills and understanding. More information about the PQRC's current hours and modes of operation can be found at the PQRC webpage.

Title IX SYLLABUS STATEMENT: [MAILTO:LCOHEN@STLAWU.EDU](mailto:LCOHEN@STLAWU.EDU)

MEMBERS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY—students, employees, and guests— should expect to be free from retaliation, discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct, behavior that is inherently abusive of the humanity that each of us brings to the campus community. St. Lawrence University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. St. Lawrence strongly encourages students to report retaliation, discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to St. Lawrence University's Title IX office. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter or matter of other discrimination or harassment, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator that you shared that experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. Moreover, if you disclose an incident of retaliation, discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct **in an academic assignment**, the faculty member **must also report** that experience to the Title IX Coordinator.

Once a report is made, the reporting individual can expect to receive email outreach from the Title IX Coordinator, who will provide resources and possible resolution options. If the impacted person is not a threat to themselves or others, the impacted person will be free not to respond to the offer to meet. You can find more information for resources and reporting options at: <https://www.stlawu.edu/offices/title-ix/reporting-options-confidential-and-nonconfidential-resources>.

Title IX also protects students who are pregnant or need assistance for pregnancy related conditions. If you are pregnant, the Title IX Coordinator can assist you in understanding your rights and options as well as provide supportive measures.

Lindsey Tropper (Cohen) is the Title IX Coordinator at St. Lawrence University (Student Center Room 302; lcohen@stlawu.edu; 315-229-5334).

