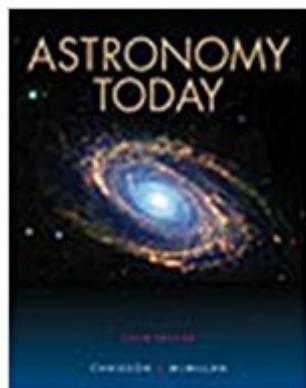


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# Astronomy Today



## **Synopsis**

Chaisson/McMillan's writing style and pedagogically driven art program are recognized as being scientifically accurate yet accessible to non-science majors. The integrated media program contains the market's only E-book. It provides readers with innovative and interactive tools to learn and test their understanding of astronomy concepts. Topics covered include Astronomy and the Universe, Our Planetary System, Stars and Stellar Evolution, Galaxies and Cosmology, and more. For one or two-semester introductory astronomy course. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

\*The "Process of Science" is integrated into the text narrative. In particular the focus on scientific discovery and scientific method, or "how we know what we know", is now a much more integral part of the text (e.g. p. 6-8, 121-22, 160-65, 596-97, 611-12). \*Part-opening essays emphasize the human endeavor aspect of science. Each part opener introduces a discovery and provides a historical context to the chapters that follow (e.g. p. 1, 140, 402, 600). "What role does your textbook play in your course?" \*Student perspective--For this revision, the text's development editor read the text from a student perspective, helping the authors identify places they could clarify or simplify an explanation, better define a term, and discuss the process used in making a discovery. The result is a text that is truly accessible and useful resource for all students. \*Expanded Glossary--200+ terms added, including definitions of words students may not know, but are not necessarily "scientific" terms (e.g. "flyby" now defined within chapter 6 Mariner 10 discussion on p. 152). "How can you involve your students in class and make large lectures more interactive?" \*Lecture Tutorials -- Developed by Jeffrey Adams, Edward Prather, Timothy Slater and the Conceptual Astronomy and

Physics Education Research (CAPER) team, class-tested lecture tutorials challenge students with thought-provoking questions that spark classroom discussion. Designed for large classes (300+) and scaleable for smaller sections. \*Classroom Response Systems enhances the interactivity of a lecture course by asking students questions and providing instant feedback on key concepts from the chapter. "Do you have an observation component in your course?" \*Starry Night Pro 4.0.5 provides everything the amateur astronomer or hobbyist needs to explore the heavens. Content Changes: \*Thoroughly updated Chapter 5-- Reflects recent discoveries and innovations, such as Telescope Design in Section 5.1 \*Introduction to solar system formation added to Chapter 6--Sets the stage for the planetary chapters (p. 144-45). \*Reorganized Chapter 22--Expands the historical development of Special and General Relativity. \*More contemporary coverage in Chapters 24 and 25--Reorganizes material to emphasize the connection between normal and active galaxies, and expands the discussion of black holes in galactic nuclei. \*Updates include new discoveries and data, including: \*New material in Chapter 7 on the Ozone Hole and Global Warming. \*Expanded coverage in Chapters 6 and 10 of the most recent missions to Mars. \*Updates in Chapter 10 on Martian oppositions, gullies, oceans, and ice. \*Final update on the Galileo/GEM mission in Chapter 11. \*Updated discussion of solar system formation in Chapter 15; expanded coverage of competing theories, planet migration, planetesimal ejection, plutinos, and the angular momentum problem. \*Latest results in Chapter 23 on Sgr A\* and the Galaxy's central black hole. This chapter also includes a new discussion of the Shapley-Curtis debate giving historical context to the "Measuring the Milky Way" section. \*Extensive revision of Chapters 26 and 27 to include the most recent observations of cosmic acceleration and discussion of "dark energy" \*Revised discussions of the cosmological constant and the age of the universe; results from the CBI and WMAP experiments suggesting a flat universe. \*Updated coverage of Europa, Mars, interstellar organic molecules, extra solar planets, and SETI in Chapter 28. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

The number-one, best-selling astronomy text, *Astronomy Today*, has been revised based on reviewers' comments and extensive development. *Astronomy Today* has been shortened (from 30 to 28 chapters), but retains its informal-but-scientific writing style, and exceptional art program. Its unique subscription program COMETS now includes computer-generated animations from NASA illustrator Dana Berry. *Astronomy Today*, Second Edition employs the familiar planets-sun-stars-galaxies organization. Key concepts are introduced in the familiar context of the Earth and solar system; the concepts are carefully developed as discussion moves outward towards the stars and galaxies. A highly praised approach to spectroscopy and light (topics often difficult for students) and

outstanding treatment of active galaxies and cosmology are other highlights. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

I did not purchase this for a class, but as a new backyard stargazer that wanted to learn about astronomy in a little more depth than is provided in books like "Nightwatch". It is a textbook, obviously. However, I have found it to be a very accessible and enjoyable read with many fantastic illustrations to reinforce the concepts that it presents. Bear in mind that this is not a coffee table book, but a serious text of 750+ pages written to present, not just Astronomy, but the scientific method and observational evidence-based thinking to a collegiate audience of non-science majors. I am finding it to be a comprehensive treatment of astronomy, our solar system and the cosmos at large without being overwhelming. *Astronomy Today* will be a very rewarding read for those willing to put the time into it.

This is the first astronomy text that I have read. I found it to be excellent. The illustrations are very well chosen & complement the text well. The style of writing is pleasant. I preferred it to the novel that I was also reading! It is light on math but there is so much for a novice to learn that was probably best. Each chapter is around 20 pages which for an easy 1 day read.

This is a textbook, and covers the field very nicely. The organization is from the introduction of Earth, Moon and sky orientation, eclipses, and the like in the first chapter, to covering the Solar System in several chapters, including a chapter devoted to the Earth from a planetary perspective, to examining the life cycle of stars. In my Curriculum, the first part of the book is a 4 hour Planetary course, and the second part is a 4 hour Stellar course. The depth of information presented definitely calls for the 2 courses. The 28 chapters would be very difficult to cover in a single course. This book seems to be very complete as a source for information about the Universe, but is definitely introductory in nature. A professional Astronomer would find it quite basic.

love it

Good book to learn from

Great introduction to Astronomy. Recommended for those who love the stars, but maybe don't love all the physics that go along with it!

This book on astronomy is written in an easy-to-read format that keeps the subject from being boring. I bought it for my son, who is a junior in highschool and being homeschooled. He really likes the book and is learning well from it. And since he loves math, he is intrigued by its use in this subject. Sometimes he just has to explain to his dad what he's learning and gets into a "teaching mode" and sounds like a professor. I love to see him so thoroughly enjoying learning! As I mentioned, the format is great, and the pictures are terrific and numerous. The writer has a relaxed, yet informative style that keeps you interested. The subject matter is broad; just what I hoped for in a book on astronomy. I paid almost as much on a dvd that was supposed to be enough material for grades 6-12, but was a real disappointment. I cannot recommend this book more highly. The questions at the end of each section are very pertinent and enhance the learning experience. A real plus! Much thanks to Mr. Eric Chaisson for an absolutely tremendous book on astronomy!

I've never taken an astronomy class during college, and it's something I've been interested in lately. This is a great book and covers all the areas. It includes some basic math. For those who want a less detailed book, they have a new book called *Astronomy: The Universe at a Glance* (in Kindle or paperback).

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