

Sherwood Observatory Basic Astronomy Course 'The Night Sky'



Course Details: October 20th - November 24th 2017

Date	Session Title	Content	Tutor(s)
October 20 th	Enrolment evening	Introduction into Astronomy Enrolment, administration and Health & Safety. Tour of the Dome, Scope and Observatory.	Phil Randall, Chris Hook, Val Barker, Nigel Johnson
October 27 th	The Sun & Solar System	Formation, Plane of Ecliptic, Planets (basic details, how and where to spot them), Brief Info on Asteroids, Pluto and KBOs.	Rob Dawes
November 3 rd	The Earth & Moon System	Moon Formation, Phases and Timing, Surface Features, Eclipses.	Phil Randall
November 10 th	Optical Equipment and Viewing Aids	Sky Nomenclature / Planispheres, Maps App / Observing techniques, Pros & cons of various types of viewing equipment; how to set up and use them.	Angus Wright
November 17 th	Finding your way around the Autumn and Spring Sky	Why the sky changes month to month. Description of the best night sky objects and how to find them.	Chris Hook / Tony Fawcett Nigel Johnson
November 24 th	A brief introduction to Astrophotography and Radio Astronomy	Astrophotography and Radio Astronomy.	Nigel Cunnington Peter Jenkins

N.B. The society reserves the right to change the topic of any lecture without prior notice for administrative reasons, although all topics will be covered during the duration of the course.

The course will be run each Friday Evening, starting at 8:00 pm. The first session will be a formal presentation, followed by a 15-minute break at 9.00 pm with refreshments. The second session will be of a more practical and interactive basis including viewing of the objects discussed, weather permitting and if the objects are visible. The session will close around 10:00 pm.

If the weather conditions permit, viewing may be available during the break and after the presentations.

Monthly Star Charts showing Constellations and key observable objects will be given out during the course.

Copies of each presentation will be available to purchase at the end of the course. There may be some handouts during the course sessions.