

2019 / 2020

Course Code	Q3417
Tutor	Howard Parkin
Venue	University College Isle of Man
Cost	£150
Start Day, Date & Time	Tuesday 1 st October 2019 7p.m. – 9p.m.
Number of Weeks / Sessions	12 Weeks – spread out from Oct to April.

What is the course about?

The night sky in the Isle of Man is one of the best in Europe. There is little light pollution and, as a consequence, we can observe many fascinating objects.

This course is aimed at the beginner or the enthusiastic amateur or anyone who has looked up at the night sky with wonder and questions.

The course will also give an insight into the basics which will enable participants to want to learn more for themselves. The Learning Outcomes for the course are targeted at providing the casual stargazer who wants to know more about the basics of astronomy with an opportunity to learn how to identify the planets, constellations, and other objects in the sky.

The course may include visits to places of astronomical significance on the Island and sessions will, if the sky is clear, be held outside to enable students to see the objects visible that night for themselves.

Other course / Progression / Development / Training Opportunities:

Q3539 The 2020 Manx Night Sky (1 day, 8th February 2020)

Previous Experience:

The course is aimed at new or returning students, but no prior knowledge is required.

Equipment you need to bring:

No specific equipment is required, but if good observing weather occurs, some of the sessions may be held outside, so please bring some warm clothing with you.

Additional Information:

Proposed dates for the course are:-

2019

Week 1 – Tuesday 1st October 2019

Week 2 – Tuesday 8th October 2019

Week 3 – Tuesday 15th October 2019

Week 4 – Tuesday 22nd October 2019

Week 5 – Tuesday 12th November 2019

Week 6 – Tuesday 19th November 2019

Week 7 – Tuesday 10th December 2019

Reserve date – Tuesday 17th December 2019

2020

Week 8 – Tuesday 7th January 2020

Week 9 – Tuesday 4th February 2020

Week 10 – Tuesday 11th February 2020

Week 11 – Tuesday 21st April 2020

Week 12 – Tuesday 28th April 2020

Reserve date – Tuesday 4th May 2020

Learning Outcomes of the course will include most of the following:

- Identify at least 12 objects in the Manx night sky.
- Understand the various concepts concerning our understanding about the origins and fate of the Universe.
- Understand how stars evolve, shine and vary in their magnitude (brightness).
- Learn about the history of astronomy and how our understanding has changed.
- Be able to find, plot and observe objects in the night sky.
- Learn the principles of celestial navigation.
- Know the differences between galaxies, nebulae and clusters.
- Understand the different types of telescopes.
- Learn about the other planets and bodies within our solar system
- Have an understanding of previous, current and future missions to the planets
- Understand how planets around other stars are discovered (Ex-solar planets)
- Know how to calculate the number of other intelligent life forms in our own Galaxy (SETI).

Please note that this course programme is subject to change if any aspect of the subject should suddenly become topical, i.e a new comet, nova or other discovery. Furthermore, the course may include visits to sites of astronomical interest/significance, but notice will be given.

Who should I contact?

For further information, please contact the Programme Area Secretary on 648204.