

## Desert Night Sky: Planets to Galaxies

### Information

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Date/ Time: Saturday, April 27, 2 pm – 10 pm

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructor: David Chappell, Ph.D., Astronomy, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy,  
University of La Verne

### Overview

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Warm April nights are a perfect time to experience the newly emerging spring night sky. The brilliant stars of winter have sunk beneath the horizon and spring galaxies swirl high in the heavens. David Chappell, Associate Professor of Astronomy and Physics at the University of La Verne, will lead participants on a tour of the heavens starting with the planets and ending with distant galaxies during this one-day field class. Starting indoors, the course will cover basic astronomy and practical observing techniques as well as recent discoveries in astronomy. Just before sunset, the class will travel into Joshua Tree National Park to observe the night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be used to see the rings of Saturn, the Great Orion Nebula, dozens of galaxies, and more. Don't miss this great opportunity to discover the universe that surrounds us!

### Itinerary

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Saturday, April 27, 2 pm – 10 pm

*Oasis Visitor Center*

- Lecture
- Dinner break, **bring your own food**
- Evening field class

### What to Bring to the Course

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#### ***Required Class Materials***

- Red Flashlight/headlamp (red cellophane can be used over normal lights)

#### ***The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert***

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes

- Dinner and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

### **Fitness Requirements**

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Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold

### **Hike Level**

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Easy

### **Guidelines**

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- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Watch your step. Some of the class is at night, please bring a flash light and beware of uneven ground and equipment.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

### **Instructor Biography**

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**David Chappell**, Ph.D., Astronomy, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy, University of La Verne, has taught astronomy and physics for eleven years. Chappell's research interests include star formation, galaxy evolution, and computational astrophysics. His interest in archaeo-astronomy has led him to study in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, the Shetland Islands, and the Kingdom of Tonga.

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\* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs, however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.