

THE NIGHT SKY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

ASTRONOMY COURSES

Night Sky Conservation (NSC) conducts two high-calibre astronomy courses every year as a part of its dedication to astronomy and light pollution education.

The NSC recognizes that education is a significant factor in reducing light pollution in any municipality. Both astronomy courses are geared toward imparting an appreciation of the night sky as a method of educating the public what will happen if light pollution is allowed to proceed unabated.

The NSC Spring Astronomy Course is structured around the basics of astronomy. This includes our place in the universe, the constellations, the solar system, using telescopes and cameras, deep sky catalogues, the effects of light pollution and reducing light pollution in our own neighbourhoods.

The Autumn Astronomy Course is structured around the major astronomy news of the week. This could include new discoveries, new theories, new space probes, new projects and any major developments in astronomy. This course might be considered a little more advanced than the Spring Astronomy Course, but students of all ages are encouraged to attend and enjoy the heavens in a comfortable and inviting atmosphere.

Each NSC Astronomy Course costs \$75 per student. For this money, each student receives course notes (published on the NSC web site every week), expert instruction from the course educator, Michael A. Earl, and an explanation of the science behind each major astronomical news story that the media often leaves behind.

Each NSC Astronomy Course runs for 10 weeks, with classes every Friday night, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Each class is held on the lovely grounds of the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area Gatehouse.

Spring Astronomy Course: Friday, Mar. 19 to Friday, May 28, 2010.

Autumn Astronomy Course: Friday, Sep. 17 to Friday, Nov. 19, 2010.

The NSC Astronomy Courses web site: [www.castor2.ca/nsc/07 Courses](http://www.castor2.ca/nsc/07_Courses).