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lecture tutorials for introductory astronomy which was developed by the conceptual astronomy and physics education research caper team is a collection of classroom tested activities designed for the large lecture introductory astronomy class although it is suitable for any astronomy class the lecture tutorials are short structured activities designed for students to complete while working in pairs each activity targets one or more specific learning objectives based on research on student difficulties in astronomy most activities can be completed in 10 to 15 minutes the instructor's guide provides for each activity the recommended prerequisite knowledge the learning goals for the activity a pre activity assessment question an answer key suggestions for implementation and follow up questions to be used for class discussion or homework

funded by the national science foundation lecture tutorials for introductory astronomy 4th edition is designed to make traditional lecture format courses more interactive these easy to implement student activities can be integrated into any existing course structure presented in a classroom ready format and requiring no equipment each of the 50 lecture tutorials challenges students with a series of questions carefully designed to engage them in critical reasoning and spark classroom discussion each activity targets one or more specific learning objectives based on education research these activities lead to deeper more complete student understanding through a series of structured questions that prompt students to use reasoning and identify and correct their misconceptions all content has been extensively field tested and 7 new tutorials have been added that respond to reviewer demand numerous interviews and nationally conducted workshops back cover

this is the first scholarly collection of articles focused on the cultural astronomy of africans it weaves together astronomy anthropology and africa and it includes african myths and legends about the sky alignments to celestial bodies found at archaeological sites and at places of worship rock art with celestial imagery and scientific thinking revealed in local astronomy traditions including ethnomathematics and the creation of calendars authors include astronomers kim malville johnson urama and thebe medupe archaeologist felix chami and geographer michael bonine and many new authors as an emerging subfield of cultural astronomy african cultural astronomy researchers are focused on training students specifically for doing research in africa the first part of the volume contains lessons and exercises to help the beginning student of african cultural astronomy included are exercises in archaeoastronomy cultural anthropology and naked eye astronomy penned by authors who use these regularly use these methods for their research this collection of lessons and research papers provides a foundation for the cultural astronomy researcher interested in doing work in africa

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astrobiology this unique book advances the frontier discussion of a wide spectrum of astrobiological issues on scientific advances space ethics social impact religious meaning and public policy formulation astrobiology is an exploding discipline in which not only the natural sciences but also the social sciences and humanities converge astrobiology science ethics and public policy is a multidisciplinary book that presents different perspectives and points of view by its contributing specialists epistemological moral and political issues arising from astrobiology convey the complexity of challenges posed by the search for life elsewhere in the universe we ask if a convoy of colonists from earth make the trip to mars should their genomes be edited to adapt to the red planet's environment if scientists discover a biosphere with microbial life within our solar system will it possess intrinsic value or merely utilitarian value if astronomers discover an intelligent civilization on an exoplanet elsewhere in the milky way what would be humanity's moral responsibility to protect earth from an existential threat to treat other intelligences with dignity to exploit through interstellar commerce to conquer audience the book will attract readers from a wide range of interests including astronomers astrobiologists chemists biologists space engineers ethicists theologians and philosophers

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this book explores evidence based practice in college science teaching it is grounded in disciplinary education research by practicing scientists who have chosen to take wieman s 2014 challenge seriously and to investigate claims about the efficacy of alternative strategies in college science teaching in editing this book we have chosen to showcase outstanding cases of exemplary practice supported by solid evidence and to include practitioners who offer models of teaching and learning that meet the high standards of the scientific disciplines our intention is to let these distinguished scientists speak for themselves and to offer authentic guidance to those who seek models of excellence our primary audience consists of the thousands of dedicated faculty and graduate students who teach undergraduate science at community and technical colleges 4 year liberal arts institutions comprehensive regional campuses and flagship research universities in keeping with wieman s challenge our primary focus has been on identifying classroom practices that encourage and support meaningful learning and conceptual understanding in the natural sciences the content is structured as follows after an introduction based on constructivist learning theory section i the practices we explore are eliciting ideas and encouraging reflection section ii using clickers to engage students section iii supporting peer interaction through small group activities section iv restructuring curriculum and instruction section v rethinking the physical environment section vi enhancing understanding with technology section vii and assessing understanding section viii the book s final section ix is devoted to professional issues facing college and university faculty who choose to adopt active learning in their courses the common feature underlying all of the strategies described in this book is their emphasis on actively engaging students who seek to make sense of natural objects and events many of the strategies we highlight emerge from a constructivist view of learning that has gained widespread acceptance in recent years in this view learners make sense of the world by forging connections between new ideas and those that are part of their existing knowledge base for most students that knowledge base is riddled with a host of naïve notions misconceptions and alternative conceptions they have acquired throughout their lives to a considerable extent the job of the teacher is to coax out these ideas to help students understand how their ideas differ from the scientifically accepted view to assist as students restructure and reconcile their newly acquired knowledge and to provide opportunities for students to evaluate what they have learned

and apply it in novel circumstances clearly this prescription demands far more than most college and university scientists have been prepared for

the handbook offers models of teaching and learning that go beyond the typical lecture laboratory format and provides rationales for new practices in the college classroom it is ideal for graduate teaching assistants senior faculty and graduate coordinators and mid career professors in search of reinvigoration

the papers included in these proceedings have been peer reviewed the 2005 physics education research conference covered a broad spectrum of current research directions including student learning of specific topics student attitudes and the effectiveness of various teaching methods the emphasis was on undergraduate instruction the theme of this conference was connecting physics education research teacher education at all levels k 20

papers from an august 2003 conference report on the latest research in physics education some specific topics covered include empirical investigations of student understanding the myth of gender neutrality using mapped samples to look for sex differences and students representational coherence of newton s first and second laws other topics ar

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