

# Welcome



## Contemplative Astronomy G25110505

with Wayne Hicks  
December 5-8, 2026

Greetings fellow explorers!

Welcome to “Contemplative Astronomy.” I look forward to being with you at Ghost Ranch for the first weekend in December (December 5th through 8th, 2025).

In this course, the chief aim is experiencing and contemplating some of the wonders of this incredible universe from the vantage point of Ghost Ranch, in Northern New Mexico. Of course, one of the large Ghost Ranch telescopes will be available for our use. I intend for this experience to be awe-inspiring, interactive and memorable (with possible implications for everyday life).

Briefly, our weekend together will look something like this:

Friday Evening: Introductions & orientation; first steps; observing the night sky

Saturday & Sunday - Afternoons:

Discussion will be the main activity during our class. We will start by sharing our experiences of observation, both celestial and terrestrial. Then we can explore what impact they may have on each of our lives and also attempt to answer questions that may come up.

Saturday & Sunday - Evenings: Time will be split between class time indoors and time outside observing the night sky.

Monday - Morning: Check-out and wrap-up

### What To Bring?

1. Curiosity with an open heart and mind.
2. Warm clothes! (Thermals, wool socks, warm hat, jacket, gloves, etc.)

Nights out under the stars should be clear, crisp and chilly. While we may not be out all night, temperatures drop significantly after sunset. Plan to keep warm! Please keep in mind that ideal weather conditions are never guaranteed but class sessions will be given regardless of any adverse

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weather.

3. Binoculars if you have them. Cameras are welcome, too.

Thank you for registering! I look forward to meeting you under the gorgeous skies of Ghost Ranch on Friday, December 5th. Please contact me if you have questions about this course.

R Wayne Hicks email: [astrowaybricks@gmail.com](mailto:astrowaybricks@gmail.com)

Workshop Itinerary:

Friday, December 5th:

Afternoon: 3pm: Check in

5:30pm: dinner followed by a short orientation by Ghost Ranch

Evening: 7pm: Class introductions & orientation; first steps; then observing the night sky

Saturday, December 6th:

Morning: Free time

Afternoon: 1:30pm - 4:30pm: Class

Evening: 7pm - 9pm: Class: then observing the night sky

Sunday, December 7th:

Morning: Free time

Afternoon: 1:30pm - 4:30pm: Class

Evening: 7pm - 9pm: Class: then observing the night sky

Monday, December 8th:

Morning: 7:30am - 9:30am: breakfast and room check out

10am - 11am: Wrap-up & final notes