



Contemplate the Cosmos G26120201

with Wayne Hicks

December 11 – 14, 2026

Greetings fellow explorers!

Welcome to “Contemplate the Cosmos” I look forward to being with you at Ghost Ranch for the weekend of December 11th. (December 11 to 14, 2026).

Observe, Contemplate, Discuss

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 time. 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 weather.

3. Binoculars if you have them.

Thank you for registering! I look forward to meeting you under the gorgeous skies of Ghost Ranch on Friday, December 11th. Please contact me if you have questions about this course.

R Wayne Hicks email: astrowaybricks@gmail.com

Workshop Schedule

Day of Arrival (Friday 12/11/26)

3:00 pm	Check in begins at Ghost Ranch Welcome Center (Headquarters)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner in the Dining Hall, followed by Ghost Ranch Orientation
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Workshop Introductions & Orientation; night sky observation



Day 1 of workshop *(Saturday 12/12/26)*

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - Noon	Morning Free Time
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Course instruction
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm - ??	Evening Session: Course instruction and night sky observation

Day 2 of workshop *(Sunday 12/13/26)*

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - Noon	Morning Free Time
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Course instruction
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm - ??	Evening Session: Course instruction and night sky observation

Day of Departure *(Monday 12/14/26)*

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:45am	Closing session and wrap-up
10:00 am	Check out & departure

Meet Your Instructor:



Wayne Hick's interest in the skies began upon seeing the rings of Saturn as a teenager, and he became an amateur astronomer thereafter. He first experienced the wondrous night skies of Ghost Ranch in 1982, as a participant in the course "Exploring the Cosmos." Following that experience he



accepted an invitation to teach astrophotography as part of the workshop throughout the 80's. After dealing with a challenging personal situation, Wayne began contemplating life's meaning. After experiencing many revealing and illuminating insights, he led contemplative retreats supporting those who wished to consider the deeper aspects of life. More recently, Wayne has been teaching digital astrophotography at the Ranch. He is also currently offering a course titled Contemplate the Cosmos. Wayne is very enthusiastic about supporting you in contemplating our universe, potentially providing inspiration as well as a possible shift in perspective.