

Exploring the Universe Using Binoculars

Midcoast Senior College

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9:30 – 11:30, Tuesday, via Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://maine.zoom.us/j/81781174013?pwd=GNVmtcvePJ7w4QMQJlThCjnbRY9GBa.1>

Class Webpage at MSC:

<https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/project/exploring-universe-using-binoculars/>

Class One, 04 November 2025

Unit One How Binoculars Work

Unit Two Stellarium, Other Software, and Websites

Class Two, 11 November 2025

Unit Three Constellations and Stars (Colors, Double and Variable)

Unit Four Moon

Class Three, 18 November 2025

Unit Five Planets

Unit Six Open Star Clusters

Class Four, 25 November 2025

Unit Seven Globular Star Clusters

Unit Eight Nebulae: Bright (Reflection and Emission), Dark, and Planetary

Class Five, 02 December 2025

Unit Nine Galaxies

Unit Ten Planetary Nebulae

AstroLeague Observing Programs

Advanced Binocular Double Star

Asterism

Binocular Messier

Binocular Double Star

Binocular Variable Star

Deep Sky Binocular

Earth Orbiting Satellite

Galileo – Binocular

Lunar – Binocular

Solar Neighborhood – Binocular

Solar System – Binocular

Southern Skies Binocular

Binocular Master Observer

Definition of Binoculars Allowed for Observations

Observing devices with two optical tubes and two eyepieces, where you cannot change the eyepieces, are binoculars. Binoculars may be used in any Observing Program requiring telescopes or binoculars. Most binoculars do not have sufficient magnification to replace telescopes.

The Astronomical League defines a binocular telescope as an observing device with two optical tubes and two eyepieces, where the eyepieces can be replaced with eyepieces of different focal lengths. “Bino-Viewers” have a single optical tube, but two eyepieces. “Bino-Viewers” and Binocular Telescopes may be used in any Observing Programs that are telescope-based. They may not be used in binocular programs.