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# The Marvels and Mysteries of Our Universe

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## **OSHER 459-001**

**Dates:** Thursdays, 09/26/13 – 11/07/13, no class 10/17/13

**Times:** 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Commander's House, Fort Douglas

**Instructor:** Mark Swain; Contact Mark at: 801-543-9138 markswain@sisna.com

### **Course Overview**

Participants in this course will get a grand tour of the known universe including some of the latest discoveries. The focus of each session will be on the interesting, strange, unbelievable, and thought provoking. No background in astronomy or math is needed—just an inquiring mind and a desire to have some fun!

The course will consist of six class sessions, and one field session to view objects in the night sky with binoculars and telescopes.

### **Weekly Topics:**

The course will consist of six class sessions:

- Week One: The Solar System—Our Cosmic Backyard
- Week Two: All About Stars—One Star, Two Star, Red Star, Blue Star
- Week Three: The Milky Way—Our Galactic Neighborhood
- Week four: Tools of the Trade (Planispheres, Star Charts, Binoculars, Telescopes)
- Week five: Galaxies—Island Universes
- Week Six: Mysterious Universe—A Discussion on Current Questions and Issues

### **Field Session**

Participants and Instructor will agree on a date and location for a field session to view the night sky through binoculars and telescopes. The Instructor will provide a large telescope and some binoculars. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own binoculars and telescopes if they have them (ownership of optical instruments is not a course requirement).

### **Materials/Texts**

There is no required reading for this class, no syllabus, and no homework. Each participant is encouraged to bring a note pad and pen for notes. Participants will be able to download the slide deck from each week's session (after each session is complete—not before).

### **Instructor**

Mark Swain, owner of Daily Renaissance, LLC, is a professional speaker, trainer, consultant, and personal coach. He has authored numerous workshops on a wide variety of subjects. He was an undefeated speaker with Toastmasters, and is a Past President of the Utah Chapter of the National Speakers Association. He has been called a "Renaissance Man" because of his numerous interests. He met his wife while delivering a presentation on astronomy at the "U" 30 years ago! Mark built a large observatory in his back yard. His first class for Osher was: *Kaleidoscopes—The Science and the Art* (2012).