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The Sun and the Total Eclipse of August 2017 [1]



About This Specialization

A total eclipse is one of the most spectacular sights you can ever see! It looks like the end of the world may be at hand. There is a black hole in the sky where the sun should be. Pink flames of solar prominences and long silver streamers of the sun's corona stretch across the sky. It gets cold, and animals do strange things. People scream and shout and cheer, and remember the experience their whole life. But total eclipses are important scientifically as well. They let us see parts of the sun’s atmosphere that are otherwise invisible. A total eclipse presented the first chance to test Einstein’s prediction that matter can bend space – like near a black hole. The best total eclipse in the United States in 40 years happens August 21st, 2017.

This course has two primary goals:
1) to get you excited for the total solar eclipse coming in August 2017 and prepare you and your community to safely view it
2) to provide an inviting overview of the science of the sun and the physics of light

If you are most interested in preparing for the eclipse, you can hop right into Week 5! If you want the full course experience, and to get some fun scientific context for what you'll be seeing on August 21st, start with Week 1 and move through the course week by week!

[Note: if you start with Week 1, you can skip through some of the repeated material once you get to Week 5.]

Overall this course will prepare you to...
* Safely view the total or partial solar eclipse
* Help others watch safely and even make money by leading a “neighborhood watch” of the eclipse
* Review fundamental sun science, including the physics of light, how astronomers study the sun, how it formed, how we know what’s inside it, and where the energy that supports life on earth is generated



Language
English



How to Pass
Pass all graded assignments to complete the course



User Ratings
Average user rating 4.6



Level
Beginner



Commitment?
1 1/2 to 2 hours of study and review, each of 5 modules. There is also a final project.



Hardware Requirement
None

Who is this class for:

Anyone who wants to learn more about the sun and the rare, remarkable Total Eclipse of the

Sun coming to the US on Aug. 21, 2017.

For More Information or to Enroll [2]



[2]

Created by:

University of Colorado Boulder

Groups audience:
Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology
Right Sidebar:
MOOC The Sun and the Total Eclipse of August 2017

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