Astronomy 162 Syllabus: Fall 2007

Instructor: Erik Olsen

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Office Hours: Monday 11:15am to 12:15pm in Nielsen 203 or by appointment


Required Materials: For each lab, bring your textbook, a pen/pencil and a calculator (graphing calculators are not required)

Course Elements:
- Lab Reports
- Telescope Labs (Night Viewing Sessions)
- Lab Final

Lab Reports:
Every week a new lab will be covered in class. Your job is to take relevant data and complete all the questions asked on the worksheet. A lab is complete when you hand in all your data (including graphs, Excel spreadsheets, etc.) and your worksheet. Make sure all your work is stapled together (don’t use paperclips) and that your name is on every sheet you hand into me.

Telescope Labs:
You will be required to complete two telescope labs for this semester. They occur at specific times Monday through Thursday and you must sign up to go. They must be completed before the labs on 10/29 and 11/5 as they are each two part labs. I will give more information on these via email at a later date.

Lab Final:
The lab final is a test consisting of questions from each of the labs covered this semester (including the telescope labs).
Grade Breakdown:
   Lab Reports:  50%
   Telescope Labs:  20%
   Lab Final:  30%

Lab Reports, the Telescope Labs and the Lab Final are each graded on a scale from 0 to 100.

Q&A:
Do we work on each lab alone?
If you wish, you may form groups of 2 or 3 people (no more than 3 to a group). However, you must each hand in your own lab report; I will not accept one lab report with 2 or 3 names on it.

When are lab reports due?
Lab Reports are due by 9:30AM on the first Wednesday after the lab is performed. They must be in my hand or in my mailbox at that time (my mailbox is located in the Physics Department Office in 401B Nielsen). In general, the earlier you hand in the lab, the better.

What are the late penalties?
If you hand it in:
   -between 9:30am Wednesday and 9:30am Thursday:  -10 points
   -between 9:30am Thursday and 5:00pm Thursday:  -30 points
   -between 5:00pm Thursday and the time of your next lab:  -50 points
   -after the next lab has started:  -100 points
Keep in mind these deadlines only apply to Lab Reports; the Telescope Labs have no late penalties.

Suppose I miss a lab. Can I make it up?
Each semester, you may make up only one lab during the lab make-up week assuming you have a good excuse for why you missed the lab in the first place. Good excuses include but are not limited to family emergencies, unforeseen tragedies and serious illness or injury. If you know that you’re going to miss a lab for something ahead of time, let me know as soon as possible; the earlier I know, the more likely I am to accept your excuse. Also, you can be given full credit for a make up lab.
If I miss a lab, can’t I just go to another section and do it then?
In general, yes, but make sure it is a section that I teach. The sections I teach are:

- Section 001: Friday 2:30pm - 4:25pm
- Section 002: Friday 10:10am - 12:05pm
- Section 004: Friday 4:40pm – 6:35pm

You may NOT go to Section 003 to make up a lab. Also, bear in mind that I reserve the right to refuse your admittance into another section.

Can I use my one make up to redo a late lab?
No. If you do the lab, you are responsible for handing it in on time.

Schedule:

Week of:
8/20: Classes Begin
8/27: Exercise 12: The Moon’s Orbit
9/3: Labor Day (No lab)
9/10: Exercise 18: Spectral Properties
9/17: CLEA 4: Photoelectric Properties of the Pleiades
9/24: CLEA 5: The Classification of Stellar Spectra
10/1: Exercise 15: The Solar Constant
10/8: Fall Break (No lab)
10/15: Exercise 24: Cosmic Distance Scale
10/22: Exercise 26: Hubble’s Law
10/29: T-4: Color Astrophotography (Observation Data Reduction)
11/5: T-5: Stellar Color and Surface Temperature (Observation Data Reduction)
11/12: Final Exam
11/19: Thanksgiving Break (No lab)
11/26: Make-up Lab
12/3: Classes End

Telescope Labs:
T-4: Color Astrophotography
T-5: Stellar Color and Surface Temperature