Astronomy 162 Syllabus: Spring 2008

Instructor: Erik Olsen

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Office Hours: Monday 11:15am to 12:15pm in Nielsen 201 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. 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 (not including the telescope labs).
Grade Breakdown:
   Lab Reports:  70%
   Telescope Labs:  10%
   Lab Final:  20%

Lab Reports and the Lab Final are each graded on a scale from 0 to 100. You will receive either a 0 or a 100 on the Telescope Labs depending on whether or not you do them.

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 3:00pm on the first Monday 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 401 Nielsen). In general, the earlier you hand in the lab, the better.

What are the late penalties?
If you hand it in:
   - between 3:00pm Monday 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 will be handed in on the night they are performed.

Suppose I miss a lab. Can I make it up?
Yes, but keep in mind you are allowed only one make-up lab for the semester. To be eligible to make up a missed lab, you must email me within 48 hours of your scheduled lab time telling me why you were not present. If you know that you’re going to miss a lab for something ahead of time, let me know as soon as possible. Also, you can be given full credit for a make up lab.

The make-up lab itself will take place either Friday or Saturday of the week after the lab took place.
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: Wednesday 8:00am - 9:55am
- Section 002: Tuesday 2:30pm – 4:25pm
You may NOT go to any other section to do 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:
1/7: Classes Begin
1/14: Exercise 12: The Moon’s Orbit
1/21: Exercise 18: Spectral Properties
1/28: CLEA 4: Photoelectric Properties of the Pleiades
2/3: CLEA 5: The Classification of Stellar Spectra
2/10: Exercise 15: The Solar Constant
2/17: Exercise 24: Cosmic Distance Scale
2/24: Exercise 26: Hubble’s Law
3/3: T-4: Color Astrophotography (Observation Data Reduction)
3/10: Spring Break (No lab)
3/17: Spring Break (No lab)
3/24: T-5: Stellar Color and Surface Temperature (Observation Data Reduction)
3/31: Final Exam
4/25: Classes End

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