

Astronomy Lab (AST 1022L) Spring 2007

Instructor: Dan Capellupo

E-mail: dancaps@astro.ufl.edu

Course Webpage: <http://www.astro.ufl.edu/~dancaps/lab>

Office: Bryant Space Science Center, Room 309-A

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:30, Thursday 1:00-2:30, or by appointment

Night Labs: Section 0432: Monday evenings, ~8:00 PM, Dates TBD

Section 0438: Monday evenings, ~9:00 PM, Dates TBD

Night labs will take place at the Campus Teaching Observatory (CTO). You can refer to the webpage for a map.

AST 1022L Director: Dr. Francisco Reyes

Office: Bryant Space Science Center, Room 12

Phone: 392-2052, ext. 229

E-mail address: reyes@astro.ufl.edu

Course Objective: Welcome to the Astronomy Lab! AST_1022L Astronomy Laboratory counts for one (1) credit of Physical Science (P) towards the General Education requirement. It introduces students to the scientific method as applied to the field of Astronomy. The students are introduced to the process of making astronomical observations, quantitatively analyzing those observations, extracting information about astronomical bodies such as the Sun, Moon, planets, stars, nebulae, and galaxies, and understanding the basic physical processes that take place in these bodies. The students will also be introduced to the process of writing a report on an experiment, communicating the details, results, and conclusions to a reader not necessarily familiar with the experiment.

You are not required to have any previous physics or astronomy experience. However, some basic math will be used during the course.

Text: *Hands-On Astronomy: A Laboratory Manual*. Everyone must buy a lab manual and bring it to every lab, including the night labs. Copies are available at Target Copy Center, which is located in Butler Plaza and at 1412 W University Ave.

Materials: Besides the lab manual, you also need to bring a notebook, writing utensil, a metric ruler, and a scientific calculator. In addition, I recommend bringing a flashlight (with a red filter) and bug spray to the night labs.

Course Requirements: Prior to each lab session, you must read over the lab description in the text. Furthermore, you must attend every lab session, including the three night labs. You cannot hand-in a lab report if you did not attend the corresponding lab session. You must sign in at the beginning of the

lab, and you must have your data sheet initialed by me before leaving the lab. Lab reports are due at the beginning of the following lab session. If you hand-in a lab report late, I deduct 10 points per day the first time, 15 points per day the second time, etc... In addition, you must bring a late report to Room 211, the Astronomy Dept Office. You will give it to the secretary, and she will stamp it with that day's date. A week after the due date, the lab report is worth zero points.

If you miss a lab session, I cannot guarantee that you will be able to make it up, unless you have an excused absence. This includes illness, religious holidays, jury duty, and participation in university-sponsored activities. In this case, you must speak to me before the lab session that you will be missing, preferably at least one week in advance. In addition, you must arrange with me when you will turn in the lab report that is due that day.

Please turn off or silence your cell phone. In addition, university policy states that there can be *no food or drink* in the lab.

Grading: Lab reports will make up the entire grade. There will be 12 day labs, 8 of which will require a formal lab write-up. For the other 4 day labs and the 3 night labs, you will just hand-in a data sheet. The 8 formal lab reports will constitute 65% of your final grade. The other 4 day labs will be 20%, and the 3 night labs will make up the remaining 15%.

When grading each lab report, I will make it clear how much each section is worth and why points were deducted. Also, I will drop your lowest grade.

The following grading scale will be used to calculate your final grade:

A	90+	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
C+	75-79	E	<60

Night Labs: If one of our scheduled night labs is canceled, I will send out an e-mail when that decision is made. If you do not receive an e-mail from me, than you need to come to the observatory. Attendance at night labs is subject to the same policy stated above for day labs.

Academic Honesty: Do not cheat and do not copy someone else's work. Obviously, if you work in a group during lab, you might have the same data as someone else. Besides that, everything in the lab report should be your own work. If you cheat once, I will divide your grade for that lab in half. If it happens again, you get a zero for that lab. Furthermore, you could receive a failing grade for the course, and we might have to report the situation to the University's Honor Court.

Disabilities: Students who require accommodations must provide me with documentation from the Dean of Students Office.