

Astronomy 160 Winter 2007: Syllabus

160.002: Tuesday 7 PM - 9 PM AH 5180B
160.003: Thursday 7 PM - 9 PM AH 5179

Contact Information

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Phone: 647-2516 Course Websites: CTools

I am frequently available to meet outside of office hours, although I recommend making an appointment first. I am also willing to answer questions via email; however, they must be specific and you must allow me 24 hours to respond.

Attendance and Grades

Attendance in lab is mandatory. Missing a lab will result in zero credit for that week. If you have a legitimate conflict with attending lab (religious conflict or illness), please let me know as far ahead of time as possible, and alternate arrangements *may* be possible.

Your lab grade (which is 25% of your grade for the course) consists of

- 7% Notebooks. You will be required to keep a notebook of the data and observations you take during lab. The notebooks will be collected three times throughout the semester. If your notebook is neat and complete, it will boost your overall grade.
- 18% Reports. You are required to **type** a brief report of each lab and turn in this report one week later. You will be graded on the content of your report as well as its clarity and brevity.

No late work will be accepted.

Plagiarism

We will frequently work in pairs during lab, but each person **must** turn in a separate, distinct report. Furthermore, you may cite, but not copy, the textbook. To further familiarize yourself with what constitutes plagiarism, please explore the following website:

<http://www.astro.lsa.umich.edu/Course/plagiarism.php>

Facilities

Planetarium Rules

The projector is expensive, fragile, and at elbow level, so there are some important rules. Ignoring these rules and causing damage to the planetarium may result in either you or I being billed for repairs (which includes the cost of flying the technician in from Germany.)

- **Do not touch the projector.**
- **No food or drink in the planetarium at any time by anyone.**
- **Stay seated until the lights are on and the projector is upright and stationary.**
- **Do not attempt to enter the planetarium while the “In Use” sign is on. You will not be admitted.**

Observatory Rules

The observatory poses some safety risks (i.e., falling off the roof), so please exercise caution and observe the following rules:

- **No smoking, food, or drink in the dome or on the roof.**
- **Do not move the 0.4-m (big) telescope unless asked, especially if someone is looking in the eyepiece.**

Lab Work

Lab Activities

Each week I will give you a handout for the next week's lab; you should read the lab over and make sure you understand roughly what we will be doing. **I reserve the right to administer pop quizzes if I find students are not doing this reading.** These pop quizzes would then factor into your notebook grade.

It is important for you to bring a **pen, a scientific calculator, and your notebook** to every lab. You may also find the textbook helpful at times.

Notebooks

The lab notebook is a permanent record of your data. The ability to keep a good notebook is invaluable in many experimental fields of science. **It should be legible, written in pen, with numbered pages, and initialed by me before you leave.**

Your notebook should contain the following:

- **Table of Contents:** Use the first page of your notebook for a table of contents, and keep it updated through the semester.
- **Handouts:** Permanently affix each handout I give you into your notebook, including this syllabus.
- **Lab Header:** Each week, record the date and your lab partner's name.
- **Data:** Consists of observations as well as measurements.

Reports

Each week you will turn in a **typed** report on the lab we did the previous week. This should not be a long report. **Reports should be no longer than 2 pages, assuming 12 pt font and 1 inch margins.** Your report should consist of:

- **Header:** Your name, the lab, etc.
- **Objectives:** This should be a **short** (roughly two sentences) section saying what the point of the lab is. If you see no point to the lab, lie. Be aware that learning to use a piece of equipment is never the objective of an experiment or observation.
- **The Rest:** Here, type up your data (in neat tables), your graphs and calculations (using an equation editor), and analysis (generally, questions the handout asks of you). Be aware that no questions or directives in the handout are rhetorical. Use complete sentences, even when answering a yes or no question.
- **End Comment:** State how many hours you spent on this report as well as any comments you may have on the lab.