2014

118-02A Our Universe: The Sky

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Our Universe: The Sky Fall Weekend 2014

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Text: Discovering the Essential Universe, Comins, 5th Edition

Grading: There will be 2 tests (100 points each). There will be a brief paper (50 points). Your total points will be used to determine your grade according to the following scale:

| 240-250 | A  | 180-194 | C+ | 125-132 | D-  |
| 233-239 | A- | 165-179 | C  | <125    | F   |
| 220-232 | B+ | 150-164 | C- |         |     |
| 208-219 | B  | 143-149 | D+ |         |     |
| 195-107 | B- | 133-142 | D  |         |     |

Schedule (subject to change!)

Date  Chapters  Lab

17 Aug  Introduction to Course
23     1        Star Chart
30     2, 3     Constellations

6 Sep  8, 9     HR Diagram
13     9, 10    Test 1
20     10, 11   Spectral Classification
27     11, 12   Star Clusters

4 Oct  12, 13   Hubble Law
11     Lab Final Test 2   Paper Due
            Home Labs Due

Other topics may be covered if time permits. Study guides will be available for each test.
Paper (50 points)

You need to write a brief (2-3 pages) paper on a topic that relates to astronomy. Inform me of your topic before you start on the paper. You must use at least one reference, other than your text. Cite all references at the end of the paper. The style is informal. I want you to learn something and express what you have learned.

Our Universe: The Sky Lab    Phys 119-03A

You will do six in class labs and three home labs. Each lab will be worth 10 points. Please try not to miss labs. There is no easy way to make up a missed lab. However, the lowest lab grade will be dropped, so you can miss one lab without penalty. There will also be a lab final that will require you to apply what you have learned to novel situations. The lab final will be worth 30 points.

Home Labs:  Starset
Sunset
Circumpolar Motion

Grade Scale:  106-110  A  |  79-85  C+  |  55-57  D-
102-105  A-  |  73-78  C  |  <55  F
97-101  B+  |  66-72  C-  |
91-96  B  |  63-65  D+  |
86-90  B-  |  58-62  D  |

Grading Policy

I follow the Department of Physics grading policy, which is accessible at:

www.xavier.edu/physics/About-the-Department.cfm

I interpret the grading policy to mean C is an average grade. Therefore, those students with point totals around the class average would get C. Historically, most students in this class get B or C. Each class is different, but in any case bear in mind that A is an exceptional grade that I will only give for very outstanding work in lecture or lab.

Please note that hard work is not synonymous with A.

I am unable to give an incomplete. At the end of the term I will determine your grade based on the work I have. I cannot take any work after the end of the term.