Robert L. Zimmerman
Astronomy, ASTR 121
The Origin and Evolution of the Solar System
Fall 2004, Room LIL 282, U, H, 16:00--17:20
Prof Robert L. Zimmerman, Office Wil 448, bob@zim.uoregon.edu
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 AM--Monday, Wednesday, & Friday or by appointment
Web page for the class http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~phys600
Graders:
Elsa Johnson Office Hours, Wil W, 12:0013:00 and H 11:00 to 12:00 or by appointment
elsa@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Chao Li cli2@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Text: Astronomy Today by Eric Chaisson & Steve McMillan
Web page for the Text http://www.prenhall.com/chaisson

Approximate Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assign</th>
<th>Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Motions of the Sky</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assig #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Beginnings of Astronomy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assig #2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>The Solar System and</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Assig #3 (10/19 Test #1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Formation of Planetary Systems</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Assig #4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Moon &amp; Mercury</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Assig #5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>Venus &amp; Mars</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
<td>Assig #6 (11/9 Test #2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Jupiter &amp; Saturn</td>
<td>11,12</td>
<td>Assig #7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Uranus, Neptune &amp; Pluto</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comets, Asteroids, &amp; Meteorites</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>(Dead Week) Continuation</td>
<td>(11/30 Test #3)</td>
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This test is an optional exam so you do not have to take it; however, if you want to try
and improve one of your previous test scores you can choose to take it.

12/6 Start of final exam week

Midterm Exams: There will be three weekly exams and one final. Each weekly exam is
worth 50 points and covers only the material to the previous exam. The test questions
come from the lectures and book. There will not be any makeup exams because your
grade is based on your two best scores.
Final: The final is worth 100 and covers the complete term. The questions on the final
are comprehensive but are closely related to the questions covered in the weekly tests.
You must take the final!

Web Assignments: There will be a "Web Assignment" about once each week. The Web
assignments are designed to expand your exposure to astronomy and to the latest
findings. There is two parts to the assignment. In part one you are asked to explain some
basic concepts and in part two you are asked to return various images with brief
explanations of the images. All images must be placed in a word processor and under
the pictures you must include a brief description of the image and the URL where
you located the image. The descriptions must be in your own words and NOT copied and pasted. You only get full credit if the assignment is handed in on time and it is complete. You must do your own work and you must personally hand in your own paper. You cannot xerox another person’s report and replace their name with yours even if you do the assignment together! A deduction of points will occur if it is not turned in on time or it is xeroxed from another paper. The web assignment is worth approximately 6 or so points.

Returned Work: All your work is returned in the basement of Willamette Hall. At the bottom of the stairs there are shelves and you will find your assignments and tests. Your grades are posted on the bulletin board nearby.

Attendance: Attendance is REQUIRED. To encourage attendance short questions worth about four points may be asked.

Extra Credit: You may write a report. The report will consist of no less than 4 double spaced pages (not including pictures) on any topic covered during the term (The Solar System). The material may come from the Web. Add pictures from the Web to your paper. You must cite the web URLs used in your report and images. The report is due the last class lecture of dead week.

The extra credit does not give you any additional points but if you are on the borderline it may increase your final grade. The extra credit may increase your grade by changing an F+ to a D-, a D+ to a C-, B+ to A and etc. The extra credit is strongly advised.

Grades: Your class score will be determined by throwing away your lowest weekly test and then adding all of your points (All Web Assignments +two weekly tests +Attendance Questions + Final). Your grade will be based on the class curve of the total points. You can tell how well you are doing by comparing your test scores with the class average, which is a C or C+.