**ASTR 105G Lab: Introduction to Astronomy**

**TA:** Aleczander Herczeg

**Office:** Astronomy Bldg., 209

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 10:30am-12:30pm

**Email:** [aherczeg@nmsu.edu](mailto:aherczeg@nmsu.edu)

**Location:** Walden Hall, Rm. 232

**Lab Manual:** <http://astronomy.nmsu.edu/astro/Ast105labmanual.pdf>

**What You Need:** Pen/pencil, calculator, printed copy of lab (link above).

**Lab Work:**

There will be a total of 10 labs over the course of the semester. Each lab will be worth 100 points, and the 10 labs will be worth 25% of your final grade. Each lab will consist of two parts: an in-class group work portion for 65% of the lab grade, and a take-home summary for 35% of the lab grade, to be completed **individually**. You are required to show all of your work. You will not receive credit for answers lacking a clear explanation.

You are expected to print out and read the lab for the week prior to arriving in class. There will be a short quiz every week at the beginning of lab. The quiz will be extra credit to encourage reading prior to joining the class.

**Group Work (65 pts.):** Each group will turn in a single copy of the group work section at the end of lab time. Everyone is expected, however, to bring their own copy of the lab, and actively participate in discussion. All group members receive the same grade on this portion of the lab. I will assign groups consisting of three to five members.

**Take-Home (35 pts.):** The take-home portion is to be completed outside of lab time, individually. It will be due one week from when it is assigned, at the beginning of the lab. You will receive an individual grade on this portion. Details for the take-home can be found at the end of each week’s lab. Please use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling on your responses. Include citations when using an outside source or the lab handbook. Plagiarized summaries will not receive credit (see below). If you are unsatisfied with your take-home grade, you may redo it and turn it in one week later for full credit (Plagiarized summaries cannot be redone.)

**Lab Policies:**

1. **Attendance is Mandatory.** Arrive on time, and plan to use the full two hour period to complete the lab. Assignments late or incomplete due to a missed lab session will be counted as a zero. **If you know in advance that you will be unable to make lab**, notify your TA as soon as possible. You will be temporarily placed in an alternate section for that week’s lab. If you fail to attend any lab section within a given week, you will not be able to receive credit for the in-class lab portion of that week’s lab. You may, however, complete the take-home as normal.
2. **Plagiarism is not acceptable.** Do not use ideas from the lab manual, Wikipedia, etc., without citation. Do not copy your classmates, full stop. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the lab, and you **will** be reported to the professor at first offense. Be aware of the Student Code of Conduct.
3. **Late Work:** Lab summaries are due one week from when they are assigned. If you attend an alternate lab section the previous week, your summary is still due in your normal lab session. I will not accept late work.

**Other Information:**

1. If you are confused **ask me for help.** I promise I don’t bite, and I’m really not that scary. I am here to help you, and I want to help you, but I don’t know that you need it until you ask for it.
2. Partial credit is great, and I’m pretty lenient with it, but I have to have something to work with. So, answer every question, and show all of your work. Units are a big part of this.
3. GO TO OFFICE HOURS. Seriously. There’s a reason we have them, and there’s a reason that whenever you look at advice to new undergrads, this is always on the list. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE MY OFFICE HOURS, let me know! I am more than willing to set up an alternate time/place. There should be no reason you cannot meet with me.

| **Week of:** | **Lab No.** | **Lab Title:** |
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| 1/22 | 1 | Tools for Success |
| 1/29 | NONE | No Labs |
| 2/5 | 2 | Seasons |
| 2/12 | 6 | Scale Model of the Solar System |
| 2/19 | NONE | No Labs |
| 2/26 | 3 | Phases of the Moon |
| 3/5 | 11 | Surface of the Moon |
| 3/12 | 12 | Introduction to the Geology of Terrestrial Planets |
| 3/26 | NONE | No Labs |
| 4/2 | 7 | Density |
| 4/9 | 8 | Estimating Earth’s Density |
| 4/16 | 4 | Kepler’s Laws |
| 4/23 | 16 | Building a Comet |
| 4/30 | REVIEW | Review Lab Prior to Final |