

# 1 Astronomy 110G-M06

## General Information

Lab Time: Tuesday 1:30 pm - 3:20 pm, BX 102

Instructor: Ryan T. Hamilton

E-mail address: rthamilt@nmsu.edu (the BEST way to reach me)

Office: 108 Astronomy

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm, or by appointment

Mailbox: Next to the Astronomy Office

Phone: 575-646-6328

## 2 Things to Keep in Mind

### 2.1 Lab Philosophy

The labs are used as tools to aid in the understanding of the concepts explored in the lecture. These concepts are expanded upon by applying them in a practical manner in the classroom and at the campus observatory.

### 2.2 Requirements

You are expected to fulfill the following four general requirements:

1. **ATTEND ALL LAB MEETINGS:** There will be NO make up labs. If you know ahead of time that you will miss class, you can **possibly** make arrangements with me to attend a different lab section that week. But, if you miss class, you cannot make up your lab later.
2. **COMPLETE LAB PROJECTS:** All labs are due the next time your lab meets, usually the next week. Each person must also turn in their own summary (see below), but only one lab packet is required for each group. You are required to visit the campus observatory twice during the semester, on your own time on a nice clear night (details below).
3. **PREPARE FOR LAB:** To be adequately prepared, you need to read over the lab before coming to class. *BRING A REAL SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR!* Cell phones are fun and can do lots of things, but rarely can they be used for what we need to do in the labs.
4. **PARTICIPATE:** You are encouraged to ask questions at any point during the lab. Participating in class is not only a good way to help you learn, but it also helps others in the class.

### 3 Policies

1. Read the labs before coming to class. If you are not coming to lab prepared, weekly quizzes will be used as "motivation" to get you to read them ahead of time.
2. You will work in groups of 2-4, depending on the size of the class. **Each group will turn in only ONE lab, but EVERYONE will turn in their own summary.** Note that I might change the summary questions occasionally, and I will let you know during the lab if they have been changed. If you find yourself stumped over a particular question, ask for help! Blank answers will be angrily marked by my red grading pen of doom. Honest tries will be given a fair chance at some partial credit. **Both the labs and the summaries will be due the following week, at the start of the lab period.**
3. Please write legibly in the lab that is to be turned in, since generally, if I cannot read it, I can not and will not grade it. The lab summaries **MUST** be typed, without exception. If you do not have access to a computer, NMSU has facilities available to you in many places. I **WILL NOT ACCEPT EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**, as my email inbox is already out of control. Please proofread, use complete sentences, and spell check, as points may be taken off for sloppy errors and carelessness. This is college, and the ability to write a coherent sentence is important.
4. **It is an absolute rule that to receive full credit for a lab summary that you must use your own words on your own.** This means that copying, close paraphrasing, or collaboration with others in the writing of the summary **FROM ANY SOURCE** will result in a **ZERO** for the lab **AND** summary. This means that copying directly from the lab manual will not be accepted under any circumstances. If you must reference or quote something, include your source in some fashion - inline, parenthetical, or footnote references, it does not matter. Just use whatever best fits your style or what you know. If in doubt, please ask me because I am very strict on this point. If you find that you can't put the topic into your own words, please come and see me as it might mean that the main point of the lab has not been fully grasped. Repeat offenses of this policy will result in disciplinary action.
5. **LATE POLICY:** Unless you have made mutually agreed upon (confirmed) **PRIOR** arrangements (at least 24 hours in advance), assignments are late if not handed in by the end of class on the due date. Late work is accepted up to one class period past the due date, but it is worth only 50% of the total points (half credit). Work handed in later than the next class period is not accepted. Work can be handed in only in one installment. That is, it is not allowed that part of a lab project is "on time" for full credit, and another part is "late" for half credit.

6. Please come to class ON TIME. Use some common sense, like not leaving your cell phone ringer turned on, or texting all during class. Please let me know ahead of time if you need to be available to the outside world during class, it just makes things easier. Since we're close to lunchtime, if you must bring food make sure it is something that is not overly messy and does not get in the way of you or your group, or doesn't stink up the place. Don't get greasy fingerprints on the lab equipment, and clean up after yourself! The janitorial staff have enough to do already with the general mess that gets made during the course of a regular day.
7. Attendance is mandatory. You will be asked to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of class. If you ditch lab early, or show up too late to make any meaningful contribution to your group, this will be reflected in your lab grades as point deductions at my discretion.
8. For observations at the campus observatory, do NOT wait until the last minute! You are required to go to the observatory twice during the semester, **once before midterms and once after. The sheets must be turned in at the beginning of lab by Tuesday, March 10th and Tuesday, April 28th.** You are required to see four different objects each time. The observatory is open Mondays and Thursdays, weather permitting, from 9-10pm. Times may change during the semester due to daylight savings time, so check the website listed below for the latest information.

You are required to go to the observatory and see **3 objects through the telescopes or binoculars, and see one constellation** that will be pointed out by one of the graduate assistants at the observatory. Draw a picture, give a brief description of what you saw (shape, color, etc.), and then look up an additional fact about the object. Each of the 4 sheets **must be stamped** by one of the graduate assistants at the observatory to prove that you actually were there. Google is a great place to start for your additional fact, but be sure to **reference** where you got your fact from. Failure to do so will result in less than full credit for each sheet missing a reference.

OBSERVATORY PHONE NUMBER AND WEBSITE:

575-646-6278

<http://astronomy.nmsu.edu/astro/observatory>

Remember, I am here to help you, so feel free to ask me questions during the lab, during my office hours, or just about anytime. I am usually around in the afternoons, and you can find my schedule on my personal website to see where I will be.