Astronomy 101: On-Line Homework and Weekly Reading Quizzes
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An important component of this class will be the weekly assignments and reading quizzes that you will complete on-line at the textbook website. This handout describes how to register for the on-line access, and then how to work with the on-line content.

Registering for On-Line Access

To register for on-line access, please follow the following steps exactly:

1. Point your WEB browser to: http://ace.brookscole.com/voyages
2. Click on “Register” (under the “First Time Users” category). You will then be presented with a bunch of registration screens.¹
3. Click on “student”.
4. Select California from the drop-down menu.
5. Enter San Diego State University in the “school name” area.
6. Click the button next to “San Diego State University” on the “Select your school” screen, then click “continue”.
7. On the “Course Key/Access Code” screen, select the 3rd choice: “I have BOTH a course key and a content access code”. Once you do that, places to enter your Course Key and Content Access Code will appear on the screen.
   (a) In the “Course Key” area, enter the code below that is appropriate for your section:
      • If you are in the T/Th 11:00 AM section of astronomy 101 (Section 9), enter the following Course Key: E-YB79QXKMHYSNT
      • If you are in the T/Th 2:00 PM section of astronomy 101 (Section 5), enter the following Course Key: E-3XPTFW9J9M7XV
   (b) Under the “Content Access Code”, enter the code that came with your textbook² (it is contained on the little card tucked inside the front cover of your book; it is typically about 20 characters long, and may include symbols (e.g., *, -, etc.) in addition to letters and numbers).
8. Fill out the next form that comes up with your information. Be sure to write down your email address and chosen password, since these are the two items that will be required in order to log back into the system in the future. Be sure to also click on the “I agree” button next to the license agreement. Then, click “continue”. You should then be welcomed with a “Welcome to ThomsonNOW!” screen, saying that you have successfully registered. (If this is not the case, redo steps 1 through 8, being careful to type in exactly what is required.)

¹Note that if you purchased a used book, you can buy an access code by clicking on the “Buy” button, then clicking on “U.S., Latin America and U.S. Trust Territories”, then entering the word “Voyages” into the “Product Search” bar; this will produce a list of 39 titles, for which you want to click on “Instant Access to AceAstronomy for Fraknoi/Morrison/Wolff’s Voyages Through the Universe, Media Update” (it was title number 16 when I did it). Next, click on “add to cart”, and then “checkout”. After that, you will be presented with a “registration” screen. Fill out all of the information, including the creation of a user name and password. Click “submit” when done. Next, you will have to enter your user name and password on a drop-down form, after which you will be presented an “Order Form”. Complete this form with your payment information, click on “submit”, and you should then be given an access code! Once you have this access code, just proceed starting with step 2 and follow the same directions as for students who purchased a new textbook.
²or the access code that you purchased on-line.
9. Click on “Start using ThomsonNOW” button.  

→ The system will then run a “System Check” to see that your current WEB browser is supported. If all is OK, go onto the next step!

In some cases, it may request that you install a different/upgraded browser and/or software (e.g., java virtual machine) or allow popup windows. If possible, you should take the actions that it requests. However, I have found that “unsupported browsers” (e.g., Netscape) may still work just fine, so you can give them a shot. If things don’t work properly, then you will need to install one of the “supported” browsers.

If all else fails, note that the browsers available on computers in Love Library all work properly at the web site, so if your home browser does not work, just go to the library!

10. At this point, you are fully registered, and have full access to the on-line site!

**Using the On-Line Web Site**

Nearly every week, you will have an on-line assignment that will consist of at least two sections: (1) Tutorial; and (2) Reading Quiz; these will be presented to you as, e.g., “week2_tutorial” and “week2_readingquiz”. Only the reading quiz section is graded; the tutorial section is just to help you understand the concepts.

To access this content:

1. Point your WEB browser to: http://ace.brookscole.com/voyages (if you are not already logged into the site).
2. Click on “Login”, under “Returning Users”.
3. Enter your email address and password on the “sign in as returning user” screen that comes up.
4. After a “system check” (see step 9, above), you are presented with a screen with 6 tabs: “Home” (default); “Courses”, “Grades”, “Assignments/Tests”, “Course Materials”, and “Communication”. Click on the “Assignments/Tests” tab.
5. The “Assignments” page comes up, where you see that you have a “Reading2_tutorial” and a “Reading2_quiz” assigned. Click on the “Take” button next to the “Reading2_tutorial”, and then click on the “start assignment now” button on the screen that comes up. A screen appears that has a “Personalized Learning Plan” along the left-hand column, and the title: “Are you Ready for Your Exam?” in the center. At this point, you can look at any of the “Active Figures” or “Astronomy Exercises” that are recommended by the weekly reading assignment, simply by clicking on them. You will also find various tools, such as a “glossary”, “flashcards”, and “image analysis quizzes”, that you may find helpful.

None of the work that you do in the tutorial section is graded or is counted towards your homework grade. It is, however, recommended that you carry out the on-line assignment(s) in this area as suggested by your weekly reading assignments, as doing so will better prepare you for the weekly reading quiz. In addition to the exercises, the tutorial section also includes practice “chapter pre/post tests”, which usually consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. The pre- and post-tests are actually identical, and are optional: they are useful to take, but your score on them is not recorded anywhere.

6. When you are through working in the tutorial section, click on the “submit assignment for grading” button. (Note that this is a bit of a misnomer, as none of the work that you complete in the “tutorial” section counts towards your homework grade. Also, if you ever run across a screen that includes a button to “email your instructor your results”, do not email them!)

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3 Currently, supported browsers include Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 (this is what is used in Love Library), Mozilla Firefox 1.0 – 1.5, and Mozilla 2.1.2 – 1.7.12 for Windows operating systems; Safari 1.3 – 2.0 for Macs (must be OS X 10.3 or above); and Mozilla Firefox 1.0 – 1.5 and Mozilla 2.1.2 – 1.7.12 for Linux systems.

4 To allow popup windows on Windows operating systems, click on Tools → Pop-up Blocker → Turn off popup blocker.

5 You can get help with your browser by going to: http://sjc.ilrn.com/ilrn/authentication/welcome.do, and then clicking on “Browser Setup Help” under “User’s Resources” for “Students”.

6 A complete user’s guide can be found at: http://sjc.ilrn.com/ilrn/authentication/welcome.do. The guide presented in this *handout* just gives directions essential for completion of the assignments in this class.
7. On the screen that appears next, click on “Go back to the Assignments list”, under “What would you like to do next?”

8. When you are ready to take it, click on the “Take” button next to the “Reading2 quiz”, and you will be presented with the week’s reading quiz, one question at a time. This is the quiz that counts as your homework grade for the week. (Before taking it for real, you may want to click on “print blank assignment”, which will allow you to print out the entire quiz, so that you may work on it off-line.)

9. Click on the “start assignment now” button.

10. Take the quiz! These quizzes are always open book, open note, and you may even work with friends (although you must complete your own, separate, quiz on-line). When you are through, and ready to submit your quiz, just click on the “Submit assignment for grading” button, after which you will be told your score. You are allowed to take the quiz twice, so that you can (hopefully) correct any answers that you got wrong the first time through. You can return at any time prior to the assignment’s due date to finish/retake the quiz.

11. When you are through working on line, click on the “sign-out” link near the top of the page.