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. Note that the first Reading Quiz is not due until the start of the third week of class (Tuesday, September 11, at 11:59 PM).

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 several registration screens.¹

3. Click on “student”. (Do not click on the “If your Access Code card looks like this, please click here” link.)

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 following Course Key: E-64XDWF6PHCVBG

   (b) Under the “Content Access Code”, enter the code that came with your textbook². The “Content Access Code” that is required for registration is written inside a card that is attached to the inside cover of your new book (it says “Ace Astronomy” on it, and when you open it up (you have to unseal the card, separating two glued-together layers of paper) it says: “Here is the Access Code for Your FREE On-line Access”, and a 21-digit access code is printed. The access code usually begins with the letters “FMV”, and may include symbols (e.g., *, -, etc.) in addition to letters and numbers. Note that the access code is NOT the “serial number” contained in the “Virtual Astronomy Laboratories” insert, nor is it the code that may be packaged with your text for access to “InfoTrac”, which is an on-line database of articles.

8. Fill out the next form that comes up with your information:

   (a) Enter your email address (twice).

¹Note that if you purchased a used book, you can buy an access code (for $32.39) 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 58 titles, for which you want to click on “Instant Access to AceAstronomy for Fraknoi/Morrison/Wolff’s Voyages To the Stars and Galaxies, 3rd Edition” (it was title number 23 when I did it). Next, click on “add to cart”, and then “checkout”. After that, you will be presented with a “registration” screen. Click on “register”. Fill out all of the information, including the creation of a user name and password. Click “submit form” 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 order”, and you should then be given an access code! Once you have this access code, just proceed starting with step 2 above and follow the same directions as for students who purchased a new textbook.

²or the access code that you purchased on-line.
(b) Enter your chosen password (twice).
   →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.

(c) Choose and answer the security question.

(d) Enter first and last name exactly as you are registered in the course.

(e) For “Student ID”, enter just the first 8 digits of your 9-digit RedID number. (The
   system will not accept 9 digits.)

(f) Click on the “I agree” button next to the license agreement.

(g) 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.)

9. Click on the “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 on your particular computer, 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!

11. Exit the site by clicking on “Sign out” in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Using the On-Line Web Site

   Nearly every week in the course, 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_quiz”. Only the quiz section is graded; the tutorial section is just to help you understand the
   concepts. In this handout, we’ll use the the “Week 2” material as the example. So, here’s how to access
   this online content:

1. Point your WEB browser to: http://ace.brookscole.com/voyages

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.

   3Currently, supported browsers include Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 — 7.0 (this is what is used in Love Library),
   Mozilla Firefox 1.0 — 2.0 for Windows operating systems; Safari 1.3 – 2.0 for Macs (must be OS 10.3 or above); and Mozilla
   Firefox 1.0 – 2.0 for Linux systems.

   4To allow popup windows on Windows operating systems, click on Tools →Pop-up Blocker →Turn off popup blocker.
   Note that to print the reading quizzes (optional, but helpful), Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.05 or higher must be installed. You
   can get the Adobe Acrobat Reader for free from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

5You 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”.

6A 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.
4. After a “system check” (see step 9, above), you are presented with a screen that displays the current assignments available for you to take. These should include the “Week2_quiz” and the “Week2_tutorial”. There are also 6 tabs at the top of the page, called: “Home” (default location, where you are now); “Courses”, “Grades”, “Assignments/Tests”, “Study Tools”, and “Communication”.

5. Click on the “Assignments/Tests” tab.

6. The “Assignments” page comes up, where you will see (again) that you have a “Week2_quiz” and a “Week2_tutorial” assigned.

7. (Optional) Click on the “Print blank assignment” under the “Actions” column, for the “Week2_quiz”. Up will come a printable version of the complete Reading Quiz for this week. Print this out, if you wish. This is your week 2 reading quiz that you will complete online after reading the chapter and working through the Week2_tutorial material. (The hard copy of the quiz that you made is just for your own use; you will not be turning anything in in class.) Note that the first Reading Quiz is not due until the start of the third week of class (Tuesday, September 11, at 11:59 PM). Before taking the quiz for real, you should access the tutorial content first, so that’s what we’ll do next!

Reviewing the Weekly Tutorial Material

It is strongly recommended that you complete the on-line tutorial material prior to taking the weekly reading quiz, as doing so will better prepare you for the quiz as well as the in-class exams. However, note that none of the work that you do in the tutorial section is graded or is counted towards your homework grade. So, to review the tutorial material:

8. Click on the “Take” button under the “Actions” column, for the “Week2_tutorial”.

(a) Click on the “Start assignment” button.

(b) You are now presented a page that says “Are You Ready for Your Exam?” at the top, and has a list of items running down the left-hand column under the heading “Personalized Learning Plan”. Each of these items is “clickable”, and will bring you to a new page of content.

(c) In your “Week # 2 Handout” that will be given out in class on Tuesday, September 4, the “Reading Guide and Homework Assignment” section will include specific assignments to complete in the tutorial section – not all of the available material will actually be assigned to you. While the assignments will generally include only some of the “Active Figures” and/or “Astronomy Exercises”, you are of course free to look at anything else that you wish. The first “Active Figure” that will be assigned for you to look at is the one called “Celestial Sphere”.

(d) Click on the Active Figure called “Celestial Sphere”. Up comes an applet that shows the portion of the celestial sphere that is visible from a particular location on Earth. Read the information presented. At the bottom of the applet page, you’ll see four page numbers.

(e) Click on page “2” at the bottom of the applet. Up comes a description of the Celestial sphere. Review this material – it should mostly be familiar to you based on what we covered in class, as well as what you read in the textbook. (Note that two additional terms – Right Ascension and Declination – are introduced, and were not covered explicitly in class or in the reading from this chapter. You are not responsible for knowing these terms.)

(f) Click on page “3” at the bottom of the applet. An interactive screen comes up. Follow the instructions by clicking on the Earth. In the zoomed-in view presented, click first on the North Pole of the Earth. See what happens! Repeat this process, and click on the South Pole. Notice how the horizon and, thus, the part of the celestial sphere that is visible to the observer changes. Do you understand why this is happening? Try clicking on other parts of the Earth as well.

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7Many students find the “Glossary” and “Flashcards” to be particularly useful. In addition, the tutorial section may also include practice “chapter pre/post tests”, which usually consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. The pre- and post-tests are actually identical, and are optional: some find them useful to take, but your score on them is not recorded anywhere.
(g) (Optional) Notice that along the right-hand side of the applet is a question. See if you can answer it correctly. (Note that you will never be graded for anything that you do in the “tutorial” assignment, including questions that you answer — it is all just to assist your learning.)

(h) (Optional) Click on page “4” at the bottom of the applet. If you wish, you can click on the web-site link that is presented for more information about the celestial sphere.

(i) You can now repeat this process for all of the assigned Active Figures and/or Astronomy Exercises.

(j) When you are through, click on the “Submit assignment for grading” button at the bottom (or top) of the page. Note, though, that this button is a bit of a misnomer, as none of your work in the “tutorial” section is actually graded. By clicking “Submit assignment for grading” I will just see that you have looked at the material – no grades are associated with it. Note that, after “submitting”, you may return to the tutorial section at any point in the future, if you wish; there are no limits placed on the number of times you “take” the tutorial.

Taking the Weekly Reading Quiz

Like all weekly Reading Quizzes, the first one (for Week 2, due 11:59 PM on Tuesday, September 11) is open book, open note, and you may even work with friends (although you must complete your own, separate, quiz on-line). Note that 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. So, when you are ready to take the week’s Reading Quiz:

9. Click on the “Take” button under the “Actions” column, for the “Week2_quiz”.

(a) Click on the “Start assignment” button.

(b) You will then be given the week’s reading quiz, one question at a time. In general, these questions will be multiple choice, but occasionally short answer or essay questions may be asked. For this week (and for most weeks), there are 10 questions. The first question for this week asks:

The apparent path that the Sun makes around the celestial sphere during the course of a year is called

And is followed by 5 choices.

(c) Click on the choice that you think is correct.

(d) Click on the “Enter Answer” button. You are then automatically moved onto question #2. At any point while taking the quiz, you can save your work without actually submitting it to be graded by clicking on the Save & exit button (note that, as far as I can tell, the “Save My Progress” link does not actually work, so don’t click on that). If you do choose to save your work, you can “resume” taking the quiz at any point up until the due date (but make sure you have submitted it by then!).

(e) Enter answers for all ten quiz questions. When you are finished with the last question, a little “pop-up” window will appear, asking: “Would you like to submit and exit this assignment?”

(f) Click OK on the pop-up window. That should complete your first “take” of the assignment. [Note that with some Web browsers (e.g., Safari) I’ve noticed that simply clicking the OK button will not actually submit your quiz but will, instead, return you to the last question page. If this happens, simply click on the “Submit assignment for grading” button, and it will be submitted.]

(g) You then will see a screen titled “Assignment Finished”, with your score (percentage correct) below it. You then have several options presented to you under the heading: “What would you like to do next?”

(h) Click on “View Assignment Results”. This will take you to a page where you can see which questions you answered correctly, or incorrectly. Clicking on the number of the question itself will allow you to view the questions again. If you got a 100% on the quiz, then you are done! If not, you can retake the quiz one more time, either now, or at a later date (before the due date). Only the final score counts towards your grade!
(i) When you are through looking over your quiz results, click on the “Assignment/Tests” tab at the top of the page. You can then choose to “Retake” the quiz, or sign out and return later to take it again.

10. Retaking the reading quiz. You are permitted to take each Reading Quiz twice (if you get 100% on the first try, there is no need to take it a second time), and only your best score counts. So, to “Retake” the reading quiz:

(a) Sign in to the website as before, and click on the “Assignments/Tests” tab.
(b) Click on “Retake” under the “Actions” column, in the “Week2 quiz” row.
(c) Click on the “Start assignment” button.
(d) You will then be re-given the week’s reading quiz. On this second time through, you need only re-answer questions that you answered incorrectly the first time. The incorrectly answered questions are indicated by open circles next to the question numbers that are located along the left-hand column under the “Question” heading (a filled circle means you got it right the first time). Click on each question number that you answered incorrectly, and re-answer the question.
(e) When you are through re-answering all incorrectly answered questions, click on the “Submit assignment for grading” button, just like you did on the first take.
(f) After confirming that you wish to submit your quiz, you’ll be brought to a screen similar to the one you were presented with after your first take, where you can review your (now fully completed) quiz.

(g) Solutions to each week’s reading quiz will become available at both the textbook web site as well as the course web-site (http://sciences.sdsu.edu/~leonard/astro101), shortly after the due date.