Announcements

• **First on-line Reading Quiz due tonight!** The first on-line reading quiz (“Week2_quiz”), based on material from your reading for last week, is due tonight, Tuesday, September 11, by 11:55 PM (note the small change in time – 4 minutes earlier – from what was stated in last week’s handout). After that time, the reading quiz will no longer be available, and **no late assignments will be accepted for any reason.** Solutions to the quiz (“Week2_quiz_solutions”) are posted to the textbook website shortly after the quiz is due. They will also be available at the course website by the end of the week. If you have not yet registered at the Textbook Web-site, you must do so immediately! Please see the handout, **On-Line Homework and Weekly Reading Quizzes**, for all of the details.

• **Planetarium shows:** As mentioned in last week’s handout (“Week #2 Handout”), **optional** planetarium shows are being given this week and next in the astronomy department’s planetarium, Rm. PA 209 (physics-astronomy building). While it is not required that you attend a show, I **strongly encourage** you to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your understanding of the night sky. Shows will last about 1 hour, and are being given at the following times (all shows are the same):
  - Tuesday, September 11: 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM
  - Wednesday, September 12: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
  - Thursday, September 13: 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM
  - Tuesday, September 18: 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM
  - Wednesday, September 19: 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM
  - Thursday September 20: 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

  Since the planetarium can only accommodate 52 students per show, to attend a show you must first **sign up on the sheets** posted on the door to the planetarium (Rm. PA 209). See the **Week 2 Handout** for additional details.

• **HTML-formatted email:** When sending me email please, if at all possible, send it to me in “plain text” format. It is difficult for my ancient emailer to read “rich-text” or “HTML-formatted” emails. Usually, you can change the format of your outgoing email by changing the “settings”.

• **Reading Assignment Due-Date.** Several students have asked exactly **when** the readings that are assigned each week are “due”. In general, they are due one week from the date they are assigned. For instance, the assignments on this **Week #3 Handout** should be completed by the start of Week 4 (i.e., by classtime next Tuesday, September 18).

Reading Guide and Homework Assignment

This week, we finish up Chapter 1, and begin Chapter 2 of your textbook. The reading from Chapter 2 complements the largely descriptive lectures by presenting the material in a somewhat more mathematical manner. While the lectures focused on gaining an understanding of the **concepts**, this reading will help you get a more quantitative understanding of the mathematics underlying the physical relationships that were described to you in class. Note that, in the following assignments, “Text” refers to the course text, **Voyages To the Stars and Galaxies**, whereas “On-line tutorial/reading quiz” refer to the course content available at the on-line textbook web-site (http://ace.brookscole.com/~voyages).

1. **Text – Chapter 1, Section §1.2.4: Hipparchus and Precession.**

   Read here about how, in 150 BC, the astronomer Hipparchus determined that the location of the Celestial Poles was changing slowly over time.

2. **Text – Chapter 1, Section §1.3: Astrology and Astronomy.**

   We only discussed this material briefly in class, and it concerns the relationship between **astronomy** and **astrology**: the study that assumes, and attempts to interpret, the influence of the heavenly bodies on human affairs. The bottom line: while astronomy and astrology had common origins, today they are two very different fields of study.
3. **Text – Chapter 1, Section §1.4: The Birth of Modern Astronomy.**

Read here about the bold, heliocentric hypothesis of Copernicus, and the pioneering telescopic observations of Galileo. All of this material was thoroughly covered in class.

4. **On-line tutorial:** On the “Week3 tutorial” section of the textbook website, work your way through the *Astronomy Exercises* entitled: “Parallax I” and “Galileo’s Experiment”. The first exercise demonstrates how the apparent position of a foreground object (a “spacecraft”) appears to change as the location of the observer (the Earth) changes. The second exercise demonstrates the effect that air resistance has on the time it takes objects to fall to the ground. Remember Galileo’s conclusion: In the absence of air resistance, all objects would fall to the ground at the same rate.

5. **Text – Chapter 2, Section §2.1: The Laws of Planetary Motion.**

This section focuses on Johannes Kepler and his discovery of three important laws of planetary motion. It also provides some background concerning his relations with the great Danish observer, Tycho Brahe. The concepts underlying the laws that Kepler discovered were described in class in some detail; in your text, the description of them is given a bit more quantitatively. We’ll add this math in next week in class.

6. **Text – Chapter 2, Section §2.2.1 and 2.2.2: Newton’s Laws of Motion and Interpretation of Newton’s Laws.**

Here you read about Newton’s Three Laws of motion, as encapsulated in his masterwork, *The Principia*. These were all discussed in class, and so should be relatively familiar to you.

7. **On-line reading quiz (Due: 11:55 PM, Tuesday, September 18):** Take the reading quiz by clicking on the “Week3 quiz” assignment at the on-line textbook web-site. The Reading Quiz will become available to you at 12:05 AM, Wednesday, September 12 (i.e., shortly after the Week2_quiz is due). It consists of 10 multiple choice questions. **You must complete this on-line quiz by 11:55 PM Tuesday, September 18.** As always, you may take this quiz twice. (Be very careful to save your work, and to not accidentally submit it, if you are not through with a given “take” of a quiz.)

(From Johannes Kepler’s *The Starry Messenger*, 1610.)