Announcements

• Reminder: Reading quiz due *TONIGHT* at 11:55 PM! The third on-line reading quiz (“Week4_quiz”) is due tonight, Tuesday, September 25, by 11:55 PM. After that time, this reading quiz will no longer be available, and **no late assignments will be accepted for any reason**. Full solutions will be posted 15 minutes after the quiz is due at the textbook web-site (and shortly thereafter at the course web-page as well).

• First midterm exam on Thursday: The first midterm exam will be taken in class this Thursday, September 27 during our regular class time. All of the details about the exam format and content were given in last Thursday’s handout, “First Midterm Exam Guide”, which is also available at the course web-site: http://sciences.sdsu.edu/~leonard/astro101. Here are the highlights:

  1. The exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions.
  2. You have the full class period (1 hour, 15 minutes) to complete the exam.
  3. No calculators are permitted (or needed).
  4. There will be a seating chart in effect for the exam; please do NOT take your seat until told to do so.
  5. Please bring the following to the exam:
     (a) One ParSCORE FORM No. F-289-PAR-L scantron form. These may be purchased at the campus bookstore and are pink in color. (Note: Many SCAN-TRON forms look similar; *please do NOT purchase the F-288-PAR-L form* – it looks similar to the correct form, but is in fact much wider and has different information on it.)
     (b) A number 2 pencil and a good eraser!
     (c) Your official “Exam cheat-sheet” (detached from the end of the “Exam Guide” handout), with your name at the top, and all the information you want hand-written inside the box.

Reading Guide and Homework Assignment

This week we take a bit of a breather; a very short reading assignment on how we determine the age of the solar system through radioactive dating techniques. The material in this reading assignment is *not* contained in your first midterm exam, so if you would like to complete it after Thursday’s exam, that is fine. Also note that there will be On-Line Reading Quiz associated with this week’s reading material (i.e., there is no Reading Quiz due on Tuesday, October 2).

1. **Course Reader: Pages 146 – 147: Dating Planetary Surfaces.**

   This reading discusses how we are able to determine the ages of planetary surfaces by examining radioactive rocks. Make sure you understand the meaning of “half-life”.

(Sketch from Isaac Newton’s “secret” alchemical notebook.)