Announcements

- **Reading Quiz due Friday night!** The final Reading Quiz ("Quiz 11") is due Friday night, December 11, by 11:55 PM. It is a philosophical essay question, and you are guaranteed to get a 100% on it so long as you write something! I promise to read every answer, and in some cases will respond to what you've written directly via email.

- **Final exam in one week.** As stated in the course syllabus (printed in the Course Reader), the final examination in this course will take place at the following times and locations:
  
  **Section 6 (11 AM class):** Tuesday, December 15, 10:30 AM → 12:30 PM, Room PA-216 (normal lecture room).
  
  **Section 8 (2 PM class):** Tuesday, December 15, 1:00 PM → 3:00 PM, Room NE-060 (normal lecture room).

  Details about the nature of the final exam are given in the Course Reader in the “Exam Preparation Material” section in the document entitled “Final Exam Review Guide”, and will be discussed today in class. Two points worth emphasizing:

  1. The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time, and no makeup (or early) exams will be given.
  2. The final exam will consist of:
     - 75 multiple choice questions (worth 75% of the exam grade).
     - 1 essay question (worth 25% of the exam grade).

     On the last page of the “Final Exam Guide” in your Course Reader you will find four potential final exam essay questions. One of the four questions will appear, in the exact form that it is written in the handout, on your final exam.

     —Note that a revised version of the Final Exam Guide can be found online at the Course Website:

     http://sciences.sdsu.edu/leonard/astro101

     The only changes that have been made concern the availability and times for which you can get assistance from either the Teaching Associates or from me prior to the exam; they are also listed in the next three announcements here.

- **Office hour change:** My final office hour for the semester will occur on Wednesday, December 9, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM, in Rm. 238 of the physics building. (Note that my usual Friday, 12:00 - 2:00 office hours have been replaced with these hours on Wednesday.) Note that these office hours are the last chance to review your two midterm exams with me. You may also review the midterms with any of the TAs during the TA help room hours given below.

- **TA help room hours.** A Teaching Associate will be available in the TA help room (Rm. 215, physics-astronomy building, unless otherwise noted) at the following days and times before your final exam:

  Tuesday, December 8: 5 – 6 PM
  Wednesday, December 9: 12 – 2 PM; 5 – 6 PM
  Thursday, December 10: 2 – 6 PM
  Friday, December 11: 9 – 10 AM; 12 – 2 PM
  Monday, December 14: 10 – 11 AM; 2 – 3 PM; 6 – 7 PM in room PA-215; 6 – 8 PM in Rm. 256 of the physical sciences building
  Tuesday, December 15: 10 – 11 AM

  Please note that the TA Help Room hours for Monday, Dec. 14 and Tuesday, Dec. 15 are different from what they were for those days of the week during the semester.
Meeting with any of the teaching associates will be helpful. Note, though, that the teaching associates who are specifically associated with my sections of Astronomy 101 are in the Astronomy Help Room at the following times:

Shimonee Kadakia: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 5 – 6 PM; Friday, Dec. 11, 9 – 10 AM; and Monday, Dec. 14, 6 – 8 PM (in Rm. 256 of the physical sciences building for these two hours only)

Alex Burke: Friday, Dec. 11, 1 – 2 PM

David Krogsrud: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1 – 2 PM and 5 – 6 PM; Monday, Dec. 14, 6 – 7 PM

Since Shimonee, Alex, and David are part of your course, they may be able to provide more specific guidance than other TAs about things related to this particular section, but you are of course encouraged to go to the Help Room whenever it is convenient for you – most of the other TAs have also been TAs for my sections in the past!

- **Last-minute question-and-answer session.** On Monday, December 14, (i.e., the day before the final exam), an optional extra help session will be held in Rm. 216 of the physics-astronomy building from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. I will be there to answer any questions that you may have; note that this is NOT a formal “review session”; no additional information about the exam or its contents will be given at this session. Rather, it is provided solely as last-minute help to answer any questions that may have cropped up during your studying.

- **No new reading assignment for this week.** Your final reading assignment was included in last week’s Weekly Handout; there is no additional reading assignment for this week.

  → **Optional Astronomy Podcast, from Astronomycast.com:** Episode Episode 11: *A Universe of Dark Energy,* available at http://www.astronomycast.com/, as well as through iTunes. Covers and expands upon the exciting cosmological discoveries presented in the final class.

- **Final Grades.** Final grades will be posted to the SDSU Web Portal immediately after they are calculated; this will most likely occur on or about Monday, December 21 (definitely by 11 PM, December 31). **If you would like more details about your grade, simply send me an email and I will send you a list of all of your grades for the semester (including the final exam) once final grades have been calculated.**