Astronomy 101: First Midterm Exam Guide
Spring 2008, San Diego State University, 2008.02.14, Prof. Leonard

The first midterm exam will be taken in class on Thursday, February 21. The examination will commence at the start of class, and you will have the full class period (1 hour, 15 minutes) to work on it. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

→ Please see pages 179 → 182 of your Course Reader for a complete exam study guide (p. 180), exam instructions (p. 179 & 181), and sample exam questions (p. 182). This handout will not repeat all of the general information given there, but will instead focus on the specific material relevant to this particular exam.

Exam Day

When you arrive to class on the exam day, please do not take a seat until told to do so. Copies of the exam, with individual names on them, will be placed on all desks before you may sit down. Thus, before the room is set up, please wait outside the lecture room. Everything should be ready by the normal class-start time.

Please bring the following to the exam:

1. A ParSCORE FORM No. F-289-PAR-L scantron form. These may be purchased at the campus bookstore and are pink in color. To save exam time, you may fill out parts of the form ahead of time. This includes:
   (a) **Top of form:** The ‘Name’ (Last, First, Middle), ‘Subject’ (Astro 101), Date (Feb. 21, 2008) and ‘Hour/Day’ (T/Th 9:30 AM or T/Th 2:00 PM, depending on your section).
   (b) **Right hand column of form:** Write and bubble in your RED-ID number in the spaces for ‘I.D. Number’. Leave the ‘Test Form’ and ‘Exam Number’ sections blank. Do not write anything on Side 2 of the form.

2. A number 2 pencil and a good eraser!

3. Your official “Exam cheat-sheet”, which is to be carefully removed (the entire page, not just the box!) from the last pages of the Course Reader. Put your name at the top, and all the information you want inside the box.

Note that no calculators will be permitted during the exam.

What Should I Study?

Put simply, your first midterm exam covers all of the information presented by the lectures and readings during the first 4 weeks of class (and a little bit of Tuesday’s lecture during the fifth week). Specifically, the material that you will want to review includes:

1. **Textbook:**
   Prologue: Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (through bottom of page 9), 9, 10.
   Chapter 1: Entire chapter.
   Chapter 2: Entire chapter.
   Chapter 3: Section 3.7 only.

2. **Course Reader readings:**
   Pages 143 – 159: This includes the *Mathematical Toolkit*, and the first sections of readings concerning the Solar System.

3. **Selected Powerpoint Slides:**
   Slide numbers 1 → 104, on pages 20 → 56 of the Course Reader.
4. **Key Concepts, Terms, People and Ideas:**

   All terms from “star” through “Greenhouse effect” that are listed on pages 11 through the middle of page 14 of the *Course Syllabus* handout that was given out on the first day of class. Note that these terms are also included in the Course Reader, but the pages are out of sequence; in the order in which the terms were presented in class you want to start on page 12, then continue on pages 11 and 14, before finishing up on page 13.

5. **Weekly Reading Assignments** 1, 2, 3, and 4.

6. **On-line reading quizzes:** “Week2 quiz”, “Week3 quiz”, and “Week4 quiz”. Full solutions to all three quizzes\(^1\) are available at the textbook web-site or from the course homepage.

**Where Can I go for Help?**

Assistance is available before the exam through:

- **My office hours:** Tuesday 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, and Thursday, 3:30 – 4:30 PM (Rm. 238 physics building).

- **TA help room hours** (Rm. 215, physics-astronomy building):
  - Monday: 12 – 2 PM; 5 – 6 PM
  - Tuesday: 12 – 1 PM; 4 – 6 PM
  - Wednesday: 12 – 2 PM; 5 – 6 PM
  - Thursday: 12 – 2 PM; 5 – 6 PM
  - Friday: 12 – 1 PM

Meeting with *any* of the teaching associates will be helpful. Note, though, that the two teaching associates who are specifically associated with your section of Astronomy 101 are in the Astronomy Help Room at the following times:

- ShiAnne Kattner: Tuesday 4 – 5 PM and Wednesday 12 – 1 PM
- Carolyn Heffner: Monday 1 – 2 PM

Since ShiAnne and Carolyn are part of your course (and will have attended the lectures), they will likely be able to provide more specific guidance than the other teaching associates, so definitely seek them out. But, you are of course encouraged to go to the Help Room whenever it is convenient for you!

- **Last-minute question-and-answer session.** On Wednesday, February 20 (the evening before the midterm), an extra help session will be held in Rm. 216 of the physics-astronomy building from 8:30 – 10:00 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.

*Special Note:* The rather late hour for the Q & A session is being brought about due to the total lunar eclipse that will be visible from about 7 – 8 PM on this same night (Wednesday, February 20). There will, in fact, be an optional “star party” from about 6:30 – 8:30 PM on the rooftop of the physics-astronomy building that you are encouraged to attend. Details on this special event will be given in class on Tuesday, February 19.

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\(^1\)Solutions to “Week4 quiz” will be available beginning at 12:05 AM, Wednesday February 20, on the textbook website.