Astronomy 101: Second Midterm Exam Guide
Spring 2008, San Diego State University, 2008.03.13, Prof. Leonard

As indicated in the Course Syllabus, the second midterm exam will be taken in class on Thursday, March 20. 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 → 181 of your Course Reader for a complete exam study guide (p. 180) and exam instructions (p. 179 & 181). A set of sample exam questions is found on p. 183, as well. The exam protocol will be exactly the same as that followed for the first midterm, as indicated on p. 179 & 181 of the Course Reader: e.g., wait outside the exam room until told to enter as a seating chart will be in effect, and be sure to bring a ParSCORE FORM No. F-289 -PAR-L scantron form, a pencil, and one official “exam cheat-sheet” with anything you want written inside the box to the exam. This handout will not repeat all of the general information given in the Reader, but will instead focus on the specific material relevant to this particular exam.

What Should I Study?

Put simply, your second midterm exam explicitly covers all of the information presented since the end of the material covered by your first midterm exam; specifically, it covers the material assigned and described in Weekly Handouts 5, 6, 7, and 8.

One note about the cumulative nature of knowledge gained as this course progresses: While this exam does not explicitly test material that was covered by the first midterm exam (e.g., it will not not contain any questions specifically related to the celestial sphere, retrograde motion, Claudius Ptolemy, etc.), some of the topics presented during weeks 5 → 8 do, by necessity, rely on understanding of material presented earlier (e.g., to understand what is meant by the “speed of light” – presented in week 5 – you must first understand what “velocity” is, which was discussed in week 3.) In this subtle way, then, the exam is cumulative, although every effort is made to only directly test the later material.

The material that you will want to review for this second midterm, then, is as follows:

1. Textbook:
   - Chapter 4: Entire chapter.
   - Chapter 6: Section 6.1.1.
   - Chapter 7: Sections 7.1, 7.2, 7.3.1 → 7.3.3, 7.4.2.
   - Chapter 8: Sections 8.4.3 and 8.4.4.
   - Chapter 12: Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.2.

   → Note that for a few topics that we only briefly covered in class, textbook readings were not assigned. For these topics the information for which you are responsible is contained entirely on the following Powerpoint Slides:
   - Chapter 5: Only material contained on slide 159, entitled “Chapter 5: Astronomical Instruments”, found on page 76 of the Course Reader.
   - Chapter 11: Only material contained on slide 185, entitled “Chapters 8 – 12: What You Need to Know (Page 1)”, found on page 85 of the Course Reader.

2. Course Reader readings:
   - Pages 160 – 164.

3. Selected Powerpoint Slides:
   - Slide numbers 105 → 185, on pages 57 → 85 of the Course Reader.
4. **Key Concepts, Terms, People and Ideas:**
   All terms from “solar nebula” through “interstellar gas/dust” that are listed on pages 14 — 16 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 somewhat out of sequence; in the order in which the terms were presented in class you want to start on page 13, and then continue on pages 15 and 16.)

5. **Weekly Reading Assignments** 5, 6, 7, and 8.

6. **On-line reading quizzes:** “Week6 quiz”, “Week7 quiz”, and “Week8 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, March 19 (the evening before the midterm), an extra help session will be held in Rm. 216 of the physics-astronomy building from about 8:45 – 10:00 PM (i.e., it starts right after the “star party” ends; see below). 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 optional “star party” that will take place earlier in the evening on the rooftop of the physics-astronomy building. Details on this special event will be given in class on Tuesday, March 18.

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\(^1\)Solutions to “Week8 quiz” will be available beginning at 12:05 AM, Wednesday March 19, on the textbook website.