Announcements

- **Reminder: Reading quiz due *TONIGHT* at 11:55 PM!** The third on-line reading quiz ("Week4_quiz") is due tonight, Tuesday, February 19, 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 10 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, February 21 during our regular class time. All of the details about the exam format and content are 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) and in the Course Reader, pages 179 – 182. 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.

- **Reminder: Extra question & answer session Wednesday evening.** As announced last week, on Wednesday evening from 8:30 – 10:00 PM (Wednesday, February 20 – i.e., the evening before your first exam) I will hold an extra help session in Rm. 216 of the physics-astronomy building. Come armed with all questions that have cropped up during your studying!

- **Reminder: Lunar Eclipse Star Party Wednesday evening.** As announced last week, on this Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 8:30, there will be an **optional** Lunar Eclipse “Star Party” held on the rooftop of the physics-astronomy building. Please note that this event will be canceled in the event of poor weather (clouds, rain) or poor health (mine...). SO, before heading over, at 6 PM please be sure to check out the course website (http://sciences.sdsu.edu/~leonard/astro101) to make certain the event is still on! For more details on this special event, please see the handout Lunar Eclipse Star Party.

  → Even if you are unable to attend, be sure to check out the lunar eclipse on your own!

Reading Guide and Homework Assignment

This week we take a bit of a breather; a very short reading assignment on how we believe the Solar System formed, and no reading quiz. Note that 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.

1. **Course Reader: Pages 160, 161, 162, and 164: Origin of the Solar System.**

   A brief description of how we believe our solar system formed. Note on p. 162 the special biography of Carl Sagan; since many of his Cosmos videos are shown at the start of classes, I thought that you might like to learn a bit more about who this famous astronomer was. Note that page 163 should actually have come after page 159 in the Reader (i.e., it’s the continuation of section 6.2.5); Montezuma publishing accidentally placed it out of sequence.