

Astr. 161 Lab Syllabus

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Office Hours: By appointment
Class Times: Wednesdays, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Introduction

As you have learned in class, modern science is a collaborative endeavor where the scientific method is applied to answer questions about the universe. In this lab, I want you to get a taste of applying that method to reinforce what you are learning in class. As such, labs will be chosen in a manner that a) allow you to apply what you are learning in Dr. Meyer's class, and/or b) introduce you to material you may not have yet discussed in class.

Teams

Because modern science is collaborative, you may work in small groups of 2-3 people. Group sizes will be determined based on the requirements of the lab, so please don't feel like you are obligated to your lab partner(s) throughout the entire semester. You are free to change partners from one lab to the next, but not during the lab without permission. Also, note that I reserve the right to rearrange partners as necessary.

All labs turned in will include your name and the name of your lab partner(s).

Lab Duration and Turn-In

Labs will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm. You are encouraged to complete the lab and turn it in prior to departure, but this is not required. All labs must be turned in **prior** to the start of the next lab. Failure to do so without an arranged extension with me will result in zero (0, Goose Egg) credit for that lab.

Grading

Your final lab grade will count for 25% of your class with Dr. Meyers. However, if you fail the lab you will automatically fail the class even if you get 100% of the rest of the class grade. My recommendation is that you pass the lab. Besides, it will be fun.

Schedule

There will be a total of 12 labs over the course of this semester. There will be no lab during the week of Spring Break, obviously. I also understand that life happens and you may have to miss a lab. Should that happen to you, and you cannot attend a lab for any reason, you will get a 0 for that lab. However, we will conduct *one* make up lab during finals week and your grade on that lab will be substituted for the *one* lab you missed.

Date	Activity
05 Feb	Lab
12 Feb	Lab
19 Feb	Lab
26 Feb	Lab
05 Mar	Lab
12 Mar	Lab
19 Mar	Spring Break, No Lab
26 Mar	Lab
02 Apr	Lab
09 Apr	Lab
16 Apr	Lab
23 Apr	Lab
07 May	Lab
14 May	Makeup Lab (TBD)

Expectations

1. Students will be on time for lab. I know 6:00 pm is late rush hour, so plan accordingly.
2. Students are expected to have pen, paper, and a calculator (e.g., your phone), and your laptop. Any expected paper materials will be posted to Blackboard and announced ahead of time. In such cases, those materials must be printed off before lab each week.
3. Lab quality of work and answers
 - a. Your handwriting must be **clear**, if your answers are not legible then you will not receive credit. By “clear”, I mean:
 - i. Your quantitative answers are always boxed if there is no underlined space already provided.
 - ii. If there are multiple written answers to a particular problem:
 - They should be written like this.
 - Really smart and insightful answer here...
 - Etc.
 - b. Please use professional/academic grammar. If you’re struggling with this, I encourage you to use the school’s Writing Center for help. The language you use is a powerful tool; make sure you use it the way that you intend.

Missed/Late Work

If you happen to miss a lab there will be one "make up" lab at the end of the semester. Extra credit or late work will not be accepted. Reschedule your work or doctor appointments, if possible. In the case where a student attends the lab, stays the full two hours, was diligently working the entire class period, and still isn't finished, then you may turn it in prior to the start of the next lab. You may not, however, miss the lab and attempt to make it up during the 7-day period to the next lab; if you don't show up for that lab, you've missed out for that week. My advice: don't miss lab.

Other Important Things

Any subjects pertaining to Student Conduct, Special Accommodations, Academic Integrity, etc. can be found on Dr. Meyer's syllabus. The rules of engagement in her class apply her in this lab as well.

Astronomy is cool. I mean, it's really cool. You are about to learn about the universe in a way that is far more hands-on than watching any documentary on TV. Seize the opportunity, ask questions, work hard, and have some fun while you're at it. If you have any questions, just ask!