

Physics 140L – Astronomy Lab Course Syllabus Fall 2002

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Office hours: MWF 12:00pm -12:50pm or by appointment

Astronomy lab website <http://www.unm.edu/~astro1/101lab/>

Class time and location:

M 2:00-4:50pm in Henry Hall Room 37

All lab reports are due in class the week following the lab. (see below for policies on grading and late reports)

The report should have a reasonable length (several pages is typical). In the report you must: have an introduction (describe the aim of the exercise), describe the experimental procedure (including any equipment you used), present the data/results that you got, and discuss the meaning of this data and conclusions that you can draw from it. The discussion section is a good place to include answers to the questions found in the lab write-up. However, it should also contain you own thoughts and conclusions on the lab. Don't let all of your conclusions be driven only by the pre-formulated questions. A lack of independent thought is not adequate and will result in a lack of points.

Good grammar, spelling, and handwriting is important, and I will take off a small amount of points if they are not present in your lab reports. If you have problems with any of these, your best solution is to type the reports, use a spell checker, and then read through the finished product before turning it in. Show your work when computing results (for cases where multiple calculations use the same method, only one worked out example is necessary).

You must answer **all** lab questions!

Answer all additional questions that may be handed out in class.

All work for the lab **must** be done in the lab notebook. This notebook **must** be approved and signed by the instructor **before** you leave the lab, and it **must** be included with the final lab report.

Failing to turn in a lab notebook with the report will result in a "non-refundable" loss of 20% of the points. Therefore, if you come to class with your report, but forget to bring the associated notebook, it is in your best interest to consult the "late lab report" policy stated below, and turn in the complete report (report and notebook) the following day.

Some of the labs have certain sections that can be completed outside of class. If you are absent from class one week and wish to make up the lab, you **must** meet with the instructor during office hours (or at another arranged time) to discuss the procedure. Almost all labs have additional procedures provided in class, not detailed in the lab write-up. Failing to complete these additional procedures will result in a significant loss of points.

Policy concerning late lab reports:

All lab reports are due in class the week following the lab.

However...

Late lab reports will be accepted at a penalty of 5%/day. Note that this is **NOT** "per lab class", but "per WEEKDAY". Thus, a report turned in Thursday morning following the day that it is due will lose 5%. A report turned in Monday morning following the day that it is due will lose 15% (Thursday, Friday, Monday). And a report turned in the Wednesday after it was due (a full week late) will lose 25%.

No report will be accepted more than 2 weeks late, except under very special circumstances. You will have to come talk to me if you think you fall under these circumstances.

Late reports can be turned in directly to me. Please do **NOT** slide things under my office door, or place things on my desk if I am not there. If you do this, there is no guarantee that I will get the report.

Other things:

An environment of honesty and integrity is important for both the conduct of science and for learning science, and we expect your honesty in all academic transactions. Students are encouraged to discuss homework problems, laboratories and issues in the course with each other and with the staff. Indeed, you should find that you learn a great deal from each other. Keep in mind, however, that you should complete your lab reports and all out of class work related to them (calculations, etc) alone. With a class this small it is very easy to determine when two or more students collaborate on their lab reports.