

Syllabus
Astronomy 103 Laboratory
Section 5, Fall 2008

The laboratory is a mandatory part of Astronomy 103/104, and it is to provide practical experience with astronomical observations, measurements in general, and with the underlying scientific concepts. Half of the labs are indoors, so they are kept *rain or shine*.

Time and Place of Laboratory

Lewis Hall Room 1

Monday at 7:00 – 8:50 PM

<http://www.phy.olemiss.edu/~kakukk/Astro/Lab/Lab.html>

Students must attend the lab section in which they are registered.

Lab Instructor

Brooke Rankins

rankins@phy.olemiss.edu

<http://olemissastronomylab.googlepages.com>

Office Hours

By appointment: send an email

Required Lab Materials

A calculator is needed in each class.

General information:

- (1) Participation is required in each lab and missed labs count as zero. A student with more than 3 unexcused absences will fail the course, whatever their grade would be otherwise.
- (2) Labs are held at night and it might get quite cold later in the semester. Make sure to dress appropriately.
- (3) Every student must have a calculator. **Your cell phone's calculator is not acceptable.**
- (4) **Students must sign in the beginning of the lab** and turn in a lab report at the end of the lab. Missing either the sign-in or the report may result in a zero grade. Late arrivals will be automatically losing credit.
- (5) Attending a different section of the lab is not acceptable (each lab section has a different schedule). There are no make-ups for missed labs, but doctor's notes or documents proving inevitable absences are accepted.

(6) The grading scale is

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|---------------|
| A | > 90% | C | > 70% |
| B | > 80% | D | > 60% |
| | | F | Less than 60% |

For your information, grade averages in the past were around 90%, which is borderline A/ B.

(7) There will be no final test in the lab.

(8) The lowest lab grade will be dropped.

(9) **Excuses need to satisfy the following** to be acceptable:

- They **must say** that the student was unable to attend class (e.g. a simple health center bill or receipt does not say that!)
- They must indicate **from when to when** the student was unable to attend class.
- They must **give a reason** (a diagnosis is not required, but a general statement like “illness” is sufficient).
- They must have the name or phone number of whoever signs it.

The format of the lab report:

- (1) The report should be clearly organized and legible. Marks will be taken off for untidy work.
- (2) **Indicate clearly your name, section number, the date and the title on the lab report.**
- (3) Use the printed sheets from the lab manual or the ones provided by your instructor.
- (4) Grades are based on your understanding of what you are doing, on the accuracy of your results, on the correctness of your calculations (if any). Feel free to repeat measurements that do not seem accurate. Partial credit is given for partially correct results.

Conduct in lab:

- (1) The lab instructor has the authority to dismiss any student who creates disturbance in class or shows up having consumed alcohol.
- (2) Students are expected not to leave until they are told so because important announcements are made at the end of the class regarding changes in lab time, grades, or necessary preparation for the next weeks' labs.