Astronomy 119 – Astroinformatics, Spring 2021

Instructors:
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Class website: https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/ay119/

How it will work:

Each week will be dedicated to a particular topic, as shown on the class website. Links to the video lectures, readings, and exercises will be posted there. The students are *required* to go through the lectures and reading materials prior to the discussion session (see below). It is estimated that this should take between 2 and 3 hours/week.

Each week we will have a 1 hour, interactive Zoom session to ask questions, clarify things, etc. Attendance of these sessions is *mandatory*, and it may be helpful for doing the assigned exercises. If for some reason you cannot attend (and the reason has to be justified), there may be an additional quiz.

Assigned exercises (aka homework) have to be turned in by Monday of the following week; however, we encourage you to do it sooner, while the lectures are fresh in your mind. While in most cases we will provide some suitable data sets, you are welcome to substitute your own data sets, as long as they are appropriate for the exercise in question, but you have to check with the appropriate instructor first.

Grading:

The work described above is sufficient if you are taking the class P/F. If, however, you wish to have a letter grade, you will be also required to do a class project. This can be any project that would utilize at least three of the topics covered in the class at a non-trivial level. We suggest that you do it with your own research project and data, but if not, we will assign one to you.

Communications:

We will communicate to you using emails provided in the class roll in the REGIS system. You can email the appropriate instructor(s) directly. If your question is generally relevant, we'll respond to all of you. We may also establish some on-line forum for the discussions.

Collaboration policy:

We encourage you to collaborate with the other students in the class, but everyone has to turn in their own assignments. However…

FERPA compliance:

It is against the law to reveal online the identifying information of other students taking the class, and Caltech and you personally may be liable should any problems result from such a disclosure.