

Astronomy C10 / Letters and Science C70U – Introduction to General Astronomy
Section 123
Thursdays, 12:00-1:00, Evans 264

GSI: Daniel Perley
E-mail: dperley@astro.berkeley.edu
Office: Campbell 715
Office hours: 3:00-5:00 (Tuesday), 8:00-9:00 (Thursday TALC), ~11:00-12:00 (Thursday online)

The Purpose of Section

We devote two and a half hours each week to lecture, so I won't be giving "additional" lectures here in section, though I will spend a few minutes clarifying or reviewing key points from lecture and answering your questions. Instead, we'll focus on the kinds of things that cannot be done in a lecture hall filled with 800 students – in particular, group exercises, class discussions, and hands-on demonstrations to reinforce what you do learn in lecture. These will generally be guided by worksheets that I will pass out near the beginning of each class.

Worksheets will not be graded, or even collected. So don't worry about writing down all the "right" answers – instead, discuss the questions with your partners and decide on an answer as a group. When you're finished, we may go over the worksheets as a class, or instead I may come around to each group and ask you to explain your solutions.



Attendance and Participation

Section attendance is nominally required, and for the first three weeks we will take attendance - students who do not come to section may be dropped from the course. Even after the third week, however, it is important to attend section each week. Section serves to reinforce concepts from lecture which you will need to know for homework and the exams; furthermore, several points out of your final grade are based on section attendance and participation.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes held in section over the course of the semester. These will consist mostly of short-answer questions similar to the ones in your homework (unlike exams, which are multiple-choice). Be sure you don't miss these – make-ups will only be given in very special circumstances.

Getting Help

If you need extra help with your homework, there are many resources available to you. Feel free to come to my office hours (or those of any GSI!), or to any TALC session; I will also be happy to answer e-mail. You can also discuss the problems with your fellow students, as long as you work out the solutions individually. If you are unsure about what is meant by individual work, consult the department policy on academic integrity at <http://astron.berkeley.edu/classes/cheating.html>.

Final Notes

Astronomy is an amazing field – nowhere else do you deal with such massive scales or powerful phenomena. Take a second to look up from your textbook and contemplate the vast size of the cosmos – just how much of it we understand... and how much we still don't. Enjoy the semester!



Astronomy C10 / Letters and Science C70U – Introduction to General Astronomy
Section 114
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00, Evans 264

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E-mail: dperley@astro.berkeley.edu
Office: Campbell 715
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