

Astronomy 7B (Spring 2008):

Introduction to Astronomy

Course website: Log in with your CalNet ID to <http://bspace.berkeley.edu>. If you are registered for the class, you will see a tab for the class website in your bspace homepage. There is a discussion board and a posting site for all course handouts. This will be the definitive location for course announcements and problem set postings. The Google calendar for this class is <http://tinyurl.com/ypg9bl>

Text: Introduction to Modern Astrophysics (2nd Edition; 2007) by Carroll & Ostlie. There are several copies of the text on reserve at the Physics and Astronomy library (Hearst Field Annex; Building B). Reading assignments will be posted on bspace and announced in class.

Course Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 - 3:30pm, Evans 9. You are expected to attend all lectures in person.

Instructors:

Josh Bloom
Course professor & lecturer

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GSI

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Grading Policy:

Final Exam:	33%	[May 15; 12:30 pm]
Midterms I and II:	15% each	[Feb 26; Apr 8]
Assignments (Problem Sets):	33%	
Discussion section participation:	4%	

The best way to prepare for exams is to attend lectures, complete the problem sets and participate in section discussions. The final exam, while covering all the material from the course, will be focused more on the last third of the class material after the second midterm.

Missed Exams: If you know that, for legitimate reasons, you cannot be present for a midterm or the final you must let Prof. Bloom know immediately, AT LEAST 3 weeks in advance. We will try to find an alternative testing time & date for you. If you fail you to inform us with sufficient notice you will be responsible for taking the exam along with the other students.

Assignments: The due date for problem sets is Wednesday at 11am in the basement of Campbell Hall in the labeled boxes. Please put your homework in the correct box! They will say **Ay 7b - Bloom** and will be labeled with your section number, the time and day of the week of your section, and your GSI's name. No late assignments will be accepted.

The final distribution of letter grades will be determined “on a curve”; that is, relative versus absolute.

Academic Integrity

You are asked to read and abide by the "Department of Astronomy Policy on Academic Misconduct" (<http://astro.berkeley.edu/classes/cheating.html>).

Any test, problem set or lab report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work. You may not simply copy the work of another student. To be clear, you are encouraged to work with and learn from your peers -- this often means working in study groups on problem sets -- but you must demonstrate your own comprehension of the problems and the solutions in the work you turn in.

In all of your assignments, including your homework, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor or GSI beforehand. Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Berkeley. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty—including a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to graduate school—are simply not worth it.

Student Announcements

We will allow no more than one student announcement per class (limited to 2 minutes), on a first come first served basis, and must be cleared with Prof. Bloom before the start of lecture.