

Honors Project for Astronomy 101

Introduction:

For the Honors section of Astronomy 101 you will be required to complete an additional project. As this is a laboratory course your project must be hands-on project (e.g. physical observation of a celestial object) with a corresponding report. You will be submitting a research proposal, first draft, a final draft and then your completed project. Some class time will be set to check in on your project; the majority of your work and consultation with your instructor will be done during office hours and outside of class.

Method:

1. You will **select your topic** and project and obtain initial approval from me. Be sure to select something that you are interested in knowing more about. Your project must be “do-able” – building a life size working replica of the international space station though awesome, is probably not very realistic. Ask me for help!
2. Once you have an initial approval, you will submit a **project proposal** to me for approval. I will show you how to put such a proposal together. **Due 12 March**
3. I will ask you to check in with me to make sure you are making progress on your project. **Check in 19 March**
4. The **first draft** of your project will be due on **26 March**. This must be typed, with a coversheet.
5. I will ask you to check in with me again to make sure you are making progress on your project. **Check in 23 April**
6. The **final draft** of your project must also be typed and presented with a coversheet and bibliography. This is due on **30 April**
7. Your **completed project**, typed and presented with a coversheet and bibliography, will be turned in to me on **14 May**.

Grading:

This assignment is worth a total of 200 points and represents 15% of your grade in this course. You will be graded on each submission; proposal, first draft, final draft, and completed project report. Below is the rubric of how I will be grading you on each submission so that you know what is expected of you.

Proposal (25 Points)

- Is the abstract complete?
- Is the abstract coherent?
- Is it on topic?
- Is the outline complete?
- Is the timeline complete?
- Is the project “do-able”?
- Does it represent good science?

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First Draft (25 points)

- Is progress being made to complete the physical portion of the project?
- Is it on topic?
- Is it original?
- Are the citations appropriate and proper?
- Does it represent good science?

Final Draft (50 points) and Project Report (100 points)

- Is the project complete (or very near completion in Final Draft) ?
- Is the report complete?
- Are the subsections focused and on topic?
- Are the subsections the appropriate length?
- Do any included graphics support the report?
- Are the citations appropriate and proper?
- Is the bibliography complete?
- Is the data presented well?
- Is it original?
- Is it professional?
- Does it represent good science?

Report Guidelines:

- Project reports will be 4-5 pages of written content; content is exclusive of any applicable data, observational drawings, a coversheet, citations, or bibliography.
- Standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper will be used with one inch margins.
- Content will be in a standard 12 pitch font and lines will be double spaced.
- The *Chicago Manual of Style* format will be used.
- You need to use at least eight sources. No more than four citations may be from strictly online sources. Use scientific journals, periodicals, and books.

See me for any clarification.