

PHY 10 – Cosmology, First Handout

(Last updated 1/21/2008)

Prof. Andreas Albrecht

Physics 10 courses cover different topics depending on the instructor's choice. This course has the special topic of "Cosmology". We will study the big bang, cosmic inflation, the formation of nuclei and galaxies, the "dark energy" and "dark matter" and other cosmological topics. The course is designed to be accessible to non science majors and it has no prerequisites.

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1 Course Outline

To see a rough outline of the course, visit the course notes from the course web page and look at the table of contents.

2 Specific information about the course

2.1 Miscellaneous

- Professor: Andreas Albrecht, (511 Physics/Geology) Email: albrecht@physics.ucdavis.edu
- TA/Grader: Brandon Bozek bcbozek@ucdavis.edu , Office Hours: TBD
- Office Hours for Albrecht: Mon 3-4pm. Tues 2:30-3:30pm (or by individual arrangement).
- Required Textbook: Required Textbook: *Stars, Galaxies and Cosmology: The Cosmic Perspective 4th Edition.*
- Phys 10 Web Page: <http://www.physics.ucdavis.edu/Cosmology/COS10/>
- Can't get enough? You can learn more from the UCD cosmology group web pages: http://www.physics.ucdavis.edu/Cosmology/Cosmology_Group.html

2.3 Homework

- Homework will be assigned every Tuesday and will be due the following Tuesday in class at 9:45am. (unless otherwise stated). You must turn the homework in
 - a) at the front of the classroom
 - b) At the designated PHYS 10 mailbox in the Physics mailroom in 218 Physics/Geology (to the far left as you enter) Homework placed in the mailbox must be there by 8:50am on the due date.

*****Please do not place your homework in Albrecht's mailbox. It is unlikely to get to the reader in time. *****

*****Please do not place your homework in the boxes at the rear of the classroom. It is unlikely to ever be seen again. *****

- Homework turned in late will not be marked and will get a score of zero. (If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the reader and see if alternative arrangements can be made.)
 - Marked homework will be returned at the end of lecture on the Thursday following the due date. It will be placed in the boxes by the rear exit of Roessler 55. Soon thereafter solutions will be posted on the PHYS 10 web page. If you are unable to pick up your homework then, please make alternative arrangements with the reader.
 - The homework will count as 20% of the final grade. Each homework set will carry equal weight.
 - Teamwork: **Teamwork on the homework is encouraged.** However, please be aware that it is your responsibility to thoroughly understand all the homework you turn in. **Simply copying the work of another student without understanding it yourself will be considered a violation of the code of academic conduct.** Doing your homework is the key to preparing for the exams. Not making full use of this opportunity is very likely to decrease your final grade.
 - Feel free to seek assistance from Albrecht or the reader **before** the homework is due.

2.4 Exams

- Midterm I In class **Tues Feb 5**; 22% of course grade.
- Midterm II In class **Tues March 4**; 22% of course grade.
- Final Exam 36% of course grade. The final exam will be comprehensive with some emphasis on the material covered after Midterm II.
- The exams will have some multiple choice and some written questions.

Grades and Scores: Each exam and problem set will be given a numerical score. A final numerical score will be produced at the end of the class (using the percentages given above). A curve will be applied to the final score only. This makes it harder to know exactly how your grade will be affected by the curve until the end, but it leads to a more fair system. Note that I never curve *down* from the usual assignment of 90-100-A's, 80-90=B's etc.

2.5 Feedback

Feedback on the course is most welcome. Feel free to approach me in person, send email, or leave a note in my mailbox or in the homework mailbox. (Leaving me a note or sending me a snail mail letter c/o the physics department can be anonymous if you wish.) The TA is another useful channel for passing on comments about the course.

2.6 Important Tips

The best way to prepare for the exams is to do the homework and attending the sections. I never give exams that can be passed simply by memorizing the lecture notes or reading, and the subject matter covered in the problem sets will be your main guide to what will be emphasized on the exams. Some homework problems may be more difficult than the exam questions, however.

Please check your homework grades on MyUCDavis regularly. Any concerns about discrepancies are more likely to be resolved if identified early.

All reading material will either be from *The Cosmic Perspective* or will be provided in the form of additional handouts.

Please feel free to ask questions during the lectures and do take advantage of the office hours.

2.7 Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is of utmost importance to all of us. Dishonest actions and habits devalue everything that is good about your experience at college: They undermine your relationships with your peers and professors, undermine our ability to reward honest hard work and reduce the value of your degree. Please follow the academic code of conduct (linked on the front web page of this course) in all your studies.

Some people may try to make you feel that reporting dishonesty is some kind of negative behavior, being a “snitch”. In fact, reporting dishonesty is the honorable choice. Please do not ally yourself with people who take dishonest actions that undermine your education. Report violations of the code of conduct (either to me or directly to SJA). Even anonymous tips can be very helpful in stopping and punishing violators.

-A. Albrecht