Syllabus for Astronomy 103 1G

Instructor: Dr. Rob Mohr **Class Time:** MWF 2:30 – 3:20
Text: *The New Solar System* Beatty, Petersen, Chaikin 4th Edition
Office: 386 Campbell Hall **Email:** rmohr@phy.uab.edu
Office Hours: MTWR 1:00 – 2:00 **Office Phone:** 934-8107
Final Exam Date and Time: Friday April 30 1:30 – 4:00

This course is an overview of the bodies that make up our Solar System. While the course is designed to be general, some important topics will be covered in detail. All material necessary to successfully complete both the homework assignments as well as the examinations will be covered in the lecture. The text should be considered supplementary to the lecture.

There will be four homework assignments during the course. They will consist of three questions each and you will have one week to complete them. There will be a midterm examination as well as a comprehensive final exam. Both the midterm and the final exam are closed book and closed notes, although you will be allowed to bring one sheet of 8 ½ by 11 paper for reference.

Your final grade will be determined using the following scale:

Homework Average:	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	50%

AST 113- Astronomy of the Solar System Lab

Lab Hours: Wednesday 5:30pm-8:30pm
Location: CH461
Instructor:
Office:
Office Hours: by appointment
E-mail:

Content

- One lab will be performed each week. The lab may or may not coincide directly with the material from the 103 class.
- The beginning of each class will consist of a ten to fifteen minute lecture outlining the theory and execution for the lab.
- Each lab is to be considered as an expansion of the material learned in the 103 class. In some instances, material from one lab will be helpful on a following lab.
- Each class will end with a brief review and discussion of your observations.

Grade

- 96% of your grade will be determined by lab reports. All 8 reports will contribute equally to the final grade and be worth 12% each.
- The remaining 4% of your grade will be determined by participation and attendance.

Miscellaneous

- Make-up labs will not be given. It may be possible to attend the same lab on a different night the same week. The only way you may attend the other lab is by contacting me before your lab with a legitimate excuse.
- Copying information from a book, web site, someone else's report, or any other source, into your report without citation is considered **CHEATING**. This pertains to sentences as well as pictures and illustrations. Quoting short passages is OK, but you must include references, that is, you must tell me from whence the passage(s) came.
- Instances of cheating will be handled as follows:
    - First Offense-No credit on the report
    - Second Offense- No credit of the report and no participation/attendance credit.
    - Third Offense-An F for the course and you will be turned in for academic misconduct.

Lab Reports

- Lab reports should be placed within your lab notebook. They will be handed in at the end of each lab and be based on discussion and observations from the previous demonstration.
- The beginning of each lab should contain your name, the date on which the lab is occurring, and the name of the lab. This information should be supplied in the top right hand corner.
- The following sections should be within you report:
    - An **Introduction** with a brief review of the discussion (This may be supplied by taking notes during the beginning lecture.)
    - An **Experimental** section describing the equipment used and methods followed in the lab
    - A **Data/Results** section containing a description of your observations during lab.
    - A **Conclusion** section which should contain a brief description of what you have learned from the lab. This should be an *interpretation* of the results, not a retelling. Some question to think about when preparing the conclusions section include:
        - What does the data mean?
        - How was the data used to arrive at these results?
        - What assumptions, if any, were needed to make your results meaningful?