

AST 301 (Scalo): Reading and Exam Schedule

Here is a list of the reading assignments and dates for each of the seven exams (given during the normal class period and classroom—**bring a #2 pencil**). I suggest you copy this to a separate sheet and keep it handy. However because we only have about four to five lectures per exam, and there may be unforeseen circumstances, you should consider this list tentative; if the reading schedule is changed slightly, it will be announced prominently in class and by class email. Note: The exams are all on Wednesdays except for the first and the last (Fridays).

Exam 1. Chapters **1** (basics), **2** (gravity, orbits,...), **3** (radiation, except we *may* postpone sec. 3.5 on the Doppler effect for exam 2). Also see Appendices 1 and 2 at the end of the textbook. **Chapter 3 is especially important for later chapters.**

In Ch. 1 you will only be tested on sections 1.1, 1.3, and 1.7. In Ch. 2 you should read sec. 2.2, 2.3, but really we will be concentrating only on sections 2.5 through 2.8. We will cover all of Ch. 3.

Date: **Friday, Sept 10** (5 lectures)

Exam 2. Chapters **4** (spectroscopy) and **5** (telescopes). Chapter 4 is especially important for later chapters, and usually difficult for students.

Date: **Wednesday, Sept 22**

Exam 3. Chapters **6** (survey of the solar system), **15** (formation of the solar system), [This material is available *only* online at the textbook website, not in your textbook. Note that we are skipping chaps.7-14 covering details of the solar system.]

Date: **Wednesday, October 6**

Exam 4. Chapters **16** (Sun), **17** (properties of stars), **18** (the interstellar gas and dust), and **19** (the birth of stars).

Date: **Wednesday, October 20**

Exam 5. Chapters **19-22** (stellar formation, evolution and death).

Date of exam: **Wednesday, November 3**

Exam 6. Chapters **23** (Milky Way galaxy), **24** (other galaxies), **25** (galaxies and dark matter)

Date: **Wednesday, November 17**

Exam 7. Chapters **26** (cosmology) and **27** (the early universe).

Date: **Friday, December 3** (last class day)

I will explain in class and/or in emails/handouts if there is material for which you will not be responsible. This occurs mainly for chapters 1 and 2 (see above); we will read nearly all of the remaining chapters listed above.

Ask me questions about anything that is unclear, or not covered, in this syllabus.