

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Ast 309N (47760)

- Introductions
- Background Survey (for participation credit)
- Review the syllabus; answer questions
- Video: “Secrets of the Sun” (excerpts)
- Index card: feedback on video
- Preparation for next Tuesday:
  - Read pp. 1 – 12 (Kaler’s book)
  - Topic: inside the Sun, how it produces energy

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## Basic Data: Your Instructors

- Instructor: Prof. Harriet Dinerstein, RLM 16.324  
Office Hours: Tu 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- Teaching Assistant: Brian Mulligan, RLM 16.216  
Office Hours: W 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- Teaching Assistant: Kyle Kaplan, RLM 17.312  
Office Hours: M 2 – 3 PM
- Help Sessions: W 4:30 – 5:30 PM, RLM 15.216B
- Emails:  
[harriet](mailto:harriet@astro.as.utexas.edu), [bwmulligan](mailto:bwmulligan@astro.as.utexas.edu), or [kfkaplan@astro.as.utexas.edu](mailto:kfkaplan@astro.as.utexas.edu)

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Background Survey: Let's find out what you actually remember from Ast 301!

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## Basic Data: Coursework & Grading

- In-class exams: 3 over the semester, 20% each, exam total = **60%** of the course grade. There will be one “make-up” exam, on Nov. 15.
- Quizzes: 6 or 7 short (10-12 min) essay quizzes, will use the best 5 scores for **20%** of the grade.
- Participation Credits: **20%** of the grade. Can be earned in a number of ways, through in-class activities, out-of-class assignments, UT Star Parties (up to 3), reports on public lectures, etc.

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## Class Policies

- Attend regularly, pay attention, & participate!
- **No** cell phone use, including texting
- I *strongly* discourage laptops (sit in back 2 rows)
- *No make-ups* for specific missed quizzes or activities; you can make up the missed credit from a later quiz or activity.
- All exams must be taken at the same time as the rest of the class (no early or late exams).
- Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism) absolutely will not be tolerated.

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## Video about the Sun

- Excerpts from “Secrets of the Sun,” a PBS and National Geographic special made in 2012.
- Topics addressed:
  - Solar “storms” and coronal mass ejections (CMEs); their effects on and dangers for the Earth.
  - The Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), launched in 2010, and scientists who monitor the Sun’s activity.

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## Feedback on Video: Card, 8/30

- Print your name, **LAST NAME FIRST**, in the upper right-hand corner of the lined side of the index card, and your UT EID in the upper right.
- **Restate in your own words** two or three points made in the video that stand out in your mind. (Don’t just list the topics: state the points.)
- What points or concepts, if any, were **confusing** or unclear to you?
- If you turn in the card, you earn 1 credit!

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## More Information about the Sun

- Current information on solar activity:
  - [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com)
  - [solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml](http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml)
  - NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory:  
[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/sdo/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sdo/main/index.html)
- The next solar eclipse:
  - Nov. 13, 2012, total eclipse visible from S. Pacific; will skim the northern coast of Australia
  - Website for info: [eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov)

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