

# Cosmic Catastrophes

The Lives and Deaths of Stars

AST 309N

August 27, 2009

- Handouts
- Syllabus/Schedule
- Webpage:  
<http://www.as.utexas.edu/astronomy/education/spring09/wheeler/309n.html> (not blackboard)
- Four exams
- Book: Cosmic Catastrophes (second edition)
- Grading (90-100 A+/-, 80-89 B+/-, 70-79 C+/-, etc  
(do not drop lowest exam -- but extra credit!))
- Review Sessions - Wednesday, 5 - 6 PM

# Extra Credit

*On exams* (1 or 2 points):

Astronomy in the News,

NASA's Astronomy picture of the day

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

*Sky Watch Project* - details on web site, in handout. Log of observations: up to 5 points on each exam. Due at each hourly exam.

Keep an eye on Betelgeuse in Orion, also locate Sirius A, the Crab Nebula, Cassiopeiae A, Cygnus X-1, Sagittarius A, others. **1) Record enough information so that I can tell you actually went out at night and tried to see something. 2) Give a brief summary of why they are important.** Some of these can be seen with the naked eye, some not. Some can be seen now, some later in the term. Some in the morning, some in the evening. **Beware clouds!**

*International Year of Astronomy* - 2009 is the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of the telescope. Details on web site, in handout.

**Participate in an IYA function, write up a summary of the function and your reaction to it.** Up to 2 points on final term grade (equivalent to 2 points on each exam). Due at end of the term, but accepted anytime.

One option - replica of Galileo's telescope. \$20 plus shipping for kit. **Absolutely NOT required!**

IYA: <http://www.astronomy2009.org/>

Galileoscope: <https://www.galileoscope.org/gs/>

