

AST 301
Moon Observations Homework
Due Friday March 11

The Moon was new on Tuesday of this week. It should now be visible in the west in the evening, if the clouds ever go away. It should continue to be visible in the evening for most of the next two weeks. After that you will have to stay up later to see it, or look for it in the morning. (Look for it during the day as well as during the night.)

Watch the Moon for the next four weeks. Keep a record of when you saw it, where it was in the sky, and its appearance (its phase and orientation). Sketches of it would be a good way to record its appearance.

While you are watching the Moon, think about how you can explain your observations with the Copernican model. Is the time of moonrise or moonset right for its phase? Does the phase change in the way you expect during the month? Can you explain which way the lit side of the Moon faces? Does the Moon set in the same place on the western horizon as the Sun did or rise where the Sun does? If it sets to the north or south, can you explain why? (This isn't easy.) What else can you observe and try to explain?

On March 11, hand in your observations and your explanations (about 1 page for each).