

Earth, Moon, and Planets Lab

Fall 2005

Thursday 6-9pm Section

Pupin 1402

Roban Hultman Kramer, TA (roban@astro.columbia.edu)

Office hours: Tuesday 3-4pm in Pupin 1402 or any time by appointment

Office: Pupin 1420 (last office on left as you walk away from the library)

Neil Zimmerman, ATA (neil@astro.columbia.edu)

Attendance Policy

You must attend lab to get credit and there are, in general, no make-up labs. Missing a lab means losing all credit for that week. Three missed labs results in a failing grade.

Being on time for labs is important because you will often be forming groups, getting instructions, and going outside as soon as lab starts. Missing the introduction to a lab may be counted as an absence.

That being said, an exception may be made for extraordinary circumstances or religious holidays. If you know you will need to miss a lab, please let me know as much in advance as possible. The earlier you let me know, the more flexible I can be about when and how you can make up the lab. If you miss a lab due to illness or emergency, please get in touch with me by email before the next lab session.

See lab dates below.

Materials and preparation for labs

Please obtain a permanently bound (not spiral or loose-leaf) lab notebook by our second meeting, September 9. Please bring a calculator, writing implements, and your lab notebook to every meeting. You are also responsible for keeping everything handed out in lab. We will often refer back to previous exercises or do activities that span multiple weeks. You may want a three-ring binder for this purpose.

You should be prepared to go outside every week. You may want to bring a sweater or jacket starting now, because the evenings may get unexpectedly chilly. Eventually you will want gloves, a hat, a warm coat, etc.

Lab notebooks

With each lab assignment I will specify what kind of information I want you to record in your lab notebooks. I will periodically collect your notebooks and assign a grade for each lab based on what you've recorded in your lab notebooks. I'm looking for you to demonstrate that you've paid attention to the instructions and tried to think about what's going on.

You should label every page of your lab notebook with the date. Write down the name of the each lab exercise as your start it. If you have to do calculations I want to see your work, which should be written out clearly with units. All numbers, especially those given as final results, should be labeled (for instance, write "Distance from Low to Butler = 200 meters", rather than just "200").

Grading

Most labs will be completed during our regular three-hour meetings, but occasionally we may have no meeting and instead ask you to do some work independently. This work will be graded just like in-class work.

Your class participation grade is based on our assessment of your contribution to discussions and group work and your willingness to think and ask questions.

Your final grade will be 70% lab notebooks and 30% class participation.

Lab dates

09/22

09/29

10/06

10/13 (possibly no meeting, out-of-class assignment instead)

10/20

10/27

11/03

11/10

11/17

11/24 Thanksgiving, no lab

12/01

12/09 final meeting