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Web Page: www.physast.uga.edu/~loris  follow the link to ASTR1120L & 2030L. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU MONITOR THIS WEB PAGE AT LEAST ON A WEEKLY BASIS. Important announcements for the course will be posted there throughout the semester.
Phones: 542-2876 (office)
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Class: Tuesday 8:00 – 10:45 PM
Office Hours: MW 3:30 – 5:00 PM or by appointment
Text: None required

Objective: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to astronomical observing using the small/medium 24-inch Cassegrain telescope on the roof of the Physics Bldg.

Methodology: We will break up into groups of 3 and each group, after training on how to use the telescope and CCD camera, will do 4 lab assignments during the course of the semester. Each group will have an assigned time slot on Tuesday night of about 40-45 minutes, but a sign-up sheet is available on my door in case your group wants to use the telescope on another night. Two of the labs are mandatory (Images of 25 Interesting Objects, Scale of the Telescope), and the other 2 are chosen from a list of 5 (see below).

Grading: The grading system consists of completing the 4 labs above. Each one is worth 25 points and the total of the 4 will be your numerical grade. Once your final score is calculated, the letter grade you receive will be based on the following scale: A is for a score of 93.00 or above, A- is for the range 90.00 – 92.99, B+ is for 87.00 – 89.99, B is
The absolute last day to complete a lab assignment will be Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012.

The laboratory assignments, and my assessment for how difficult they are, are listed below:

Mandatory Labs:
Images of 25 Interesting Objects – Easy
Scale of the Telescope – Medium
  Must Do 2 of the Following:
Double Star Hunt - Easy
Deep Sky Hunt – Hard
Mass of Saturn – Difficult
Find Two Asteroids – Difficult
Find Pluto – Extremely Difficult

You can follow the links on the course main web page to read the write-ups for these labs.

Note that we will be observing in an unheated dome for a good part of the semester. Make sure you have warm clothing. Also, a hat is probably a very good idea, if you have one.